

# Growing Gardeners



Cooperative Extension Service  
Scott County  
1130 Cincinnati Road  
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324  
Phone: 502 863 0984  
sflynt@uky.edu  
<https://scott.ca.uky.edu/horticulture>

*Sharon P. Flynt*  
Sharon P. Flynt  
Agent for Horticulture

## OCTOBER IS TREE MONTH

Tree Month is a celebration of trees and all the ways they affect our lives! Events and programs include community tree plantings, tree walks, tours and hikes, along with educational programs for youth and adults, outdoor yoga, community workshops and seminars. There is something for everyone

### Activities available any time, all month long:

**Children's Storybook Walk** ← Books on the Subject of TREES

**Brooking Park next to the Playground Featuring** → in the Round at the  
**"Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn"** ↓ Scott County Public Library ip

by Kenard Pak



Videos on not only Trees, but all things gardening. v



<p><b>1 TUESDAY ip</b></p> <p><b>2:00 Tree Month Proclamation and Tree Planting – Yuko En on the Elkhorn Garden</b></p> <p><b>2:30 Tree Walk at Yuko En</b></p>	<p><b>2 WEDNESDAY v</b></p> <p><b>Horticulture Webinar Wednesday 12:20</b></p> <p><b>Trees Are for the Birds Zoom</b></p> <p><b>*Must pre-register-see page 2 bottom</b></p>	<p><b>7 MONDAY ip</b></p> <p><b>Cooking Made Simple 5:30 Scott County Cooperative Extension</b></p> <p><b>must register at 502 863 0984</b></p>
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v = - virtual/zooms

ip = in person activity; registration may be required

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## Stay Informed with Weather Alert



The Weather Alert app, created by Meteorologist Matt Dixon with UK Ag Weather Center, has a two-fold priority: 1) heighten awareness during extreme weather conditions and 2) to empower KY Farming operations with valuable insights for management and production-related decisions. Some may think it is only for those with farming operations, however, it is a great app to have in general with its quick notices and great radar. Especially if you have friends and family all over the country, you can put in their address and see what's going on in their world!



for iOS

for android

### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

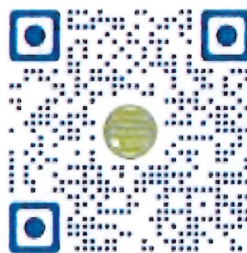


# OCTOBER IS TREE MONTH

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<p><b>9 WEDNESDAY v</b></p> <p>Horticulture Webinar Wednesday zoom 12:20 Modern Approach to Backyard Fruit *Must pre-register-see below</p>	<p><b>12 SATURDAY ip</b></p> <p>Scott Co. Master Gardeners Plant Swap 9 am-11am</p> <p>Tree Yoga 11:30 Scott Co. Cooperative Extension Office</p>	<p><b>14 MONDAY ip</b></p> <p>Toyota Tree I.D. Walk Toyota Biodiversity Trail, All Day October 14 - 20th</p>
<p><b>15 TUESDAY v</b></p> <p>HWW Growing PawPaws</p>  <p>HWW Small Trees for Small Spaces</p> 	<p><b>16 WEDNESDAY v</b></p> <p>Horticulture Webinar Wednesday 12:20 Native Fruit Tree and Shrub Zoom Must pre-register-see below</p>	<p><b>17 THURSDAY ip</b></p> <p>The Kentucky Historical Society presents American Chestnut Meeting 6:00 Scott County Library</p>
<p><b>19 SATURDAY ip</b></p> <p>Tree Yoga 11:30 Yuko En On the Elkhorn Garden</p>	<p><b>23 WEDNESDAY v</b></p> <p>Horticulture Webinar Wednesday</p> <p>12:20 WinterSewing Perennials Zoom *Must pre-register-see below</p>	<p><b>24 THURSDAY ip</b></p> <p>The Kentucky Historical Society presents Notable Trees and People Walk Georgetown Cemetary 5:30</p>
<p><b>26 SATURDAY ip</b></p> <p>Tree Yoga Twisted Trunk Community Garden 3:00</p>	<p><b>29 TUESDAY ip</b></p> <p>Make Your Own Botanical Pumpkin Scott County Cooperative Extension Office You Must Pre-Register at 502 863 0984</p>	<p><b>ip - IN PERSON LOCATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgetown Cemetery 710 South Broadway, Georgetown</li> <li>• Scott Co. Cooperative Extension, 1130 Cincinnati Road, Georgetown</li> <li>• Scott Co. Public Library 104 S. Bradford Drive, Georgetown</li> <li>• Toyota Biodiversity Trail 120 Family Circle Drive, off of Lexus Way, Georgetown</li> <li>• Yuko En on the Elkhorn Garden, 700 Cincinnati Road, Georgetown</li> <li>• Twisted Trunk Community Garden, corner of Jackson and Mulberry Streets, Georgetown</li> </ul>

Please register for the HWW classes  
at <https://tinyurl.com/24OCTHWW>  
or the QR to the right





# Fall Planting for Spring Flowers

As we go into fall, it may be a little hard to imagine that spring will be here before we know it. Nonetheless, with a little effort and planning now you can have an early display of blossoms in a wide range of colors and sizes for Spring 2025.

**How?** Plant hardy\* spring bulbs now. Hardy spring bulbs are a good investment for money spent and provide years of spring color in your landscape.

**Why now?** Fall is the prime time for planting! Hardy spring bulbs need a cooling period as a part of their development. Fall planting allows for preliminary root development and provides essential cold requirement through the winter to spur growth in the spring. Soil temperatures between 50° and 65° F are perfect for planting and are usually reached in Kentucky in October and November.



**How to get started?** Many bulb varieties can be purchased now in the garden section of local discount and home improvement stores, as well as ordering directly from bulb companies through the catalogs or internet. Daffodils are easy starter bulbs for the novice, but tulips may be for the more practiced gardener. However, most bulbs do not have complicated requirements. As long as you follow directions, you should be rewarded in the spring with blooms from any hardy bulb you choose.

**What to look for?** Look for bulbs that are firm, have no obvious bruising and are relatively "heavy". Bulbs that feel comparatively "light" may have dried out and may not produce a desirable plant. The primary function of the bulb is to provide underground storage for nutrient reserves to ensure the plants' survival. Firmness usually indicates good health and loose skins (called the tunic) or slight nicks will not affect its quality. In fact, loose tunics can aid in bulb inspection and can aid in rooting. Avoid bulbs that are obviously bruised, mushy, or moldy, as they will most likely rot before producing any plant. Bulbs are generally graded by size and top size bulbs usually produce more or larger flowers, however they can be more expensive. Bulbs that are classified as "bedding" or "landscapers" bulbs have a smaller diameter but can be adequate and grow well. After purchase and before planting, keep the bulbs cool (50-65° F), and be certain to keep bulbs away from ripening fruit since the ripening process produces ethylene gas, which can harm the bulb.

## Location, location, location

Before selecting the location to plant bulbs in the landscape, consider a few requirements - both the bulbs' and yours.

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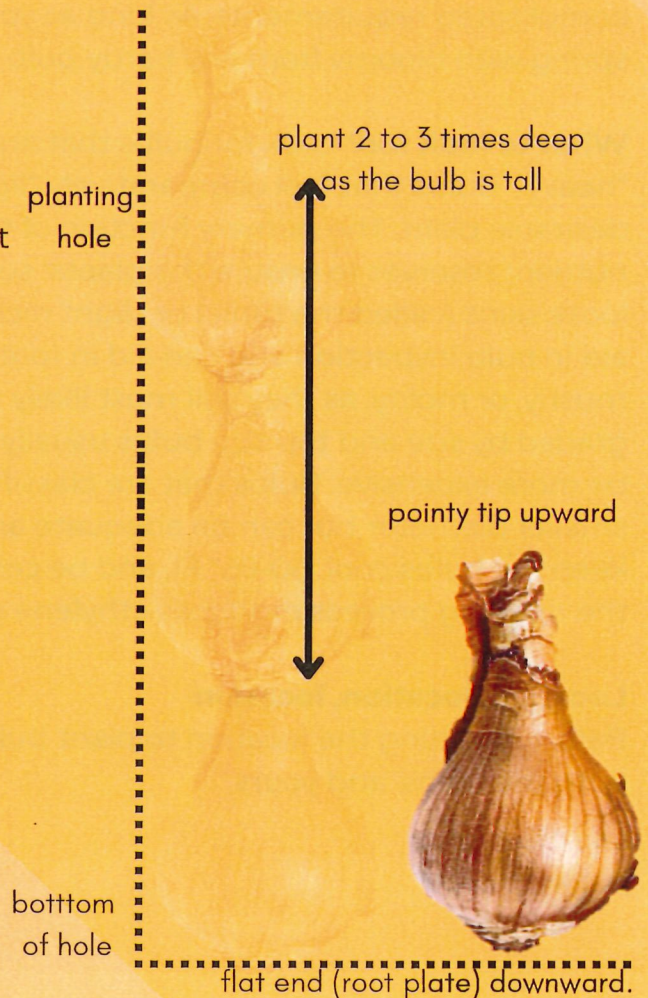
Most hardy spring bulbs prefer a full-sun location, but they can be planted under the canopy of deciduous trees as they normally grow, bloom, and complete most of their growth cycle before trees fully leaf out. Additionally, consider the micro climate in which you are planting them, as spring bulbs planted toward a southern exposure often bloom earlier than the same planted on a north slope and those planted on a hillside will bloom earlier than the same bulbs planted lower down or at the bottom of the hill.

Lastly, where would a bright shot of color on a gloomy day after a cold winter do you the most good? I tend to plant my earliest blooming bulbs in places I know will provide me with a much needed boost of hope and happiness in seeing them bloom. Perhaps placed, outside a kitchen window or close to an frequently used home entrance. Likewise, consider planting a few in unexpected places, as it fun to send children and adults alike out on a "treasure hunt" to find the hidden bright "jewels" in the landscape, even among the melting snow. Crocus, muscari, and scilla lend themselves well to this, as they are the earliest smallest and earliest to bloom.

**Soil Preparation** After deciding on location, take 2 cups of soil from you bed to the extension office and have it tested. (It is free!) Bulbs generally do best in soils with a 6 to 7 pH range although some, such as hyacinths, do better in a slightly more acidic soil. A soil test report from the Extension office will help you determine soil needs. Dig the site to prepare the site to plant, and at this time you can work into the soil some organic matter such as compost, to aid in drainage. Most bulbs tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, but good soil drainage is essential to them to keep bulbs from rotting. Many Kentucky yards have soil with a high clay content, which slows drainage. It is not necessary to fertilize when planting bulbs. The best time is in spring after flowers begin to fade, but leaves are still green.

**Planting** When planting your bulbs, a good general rule is to plant the bulb two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall from the bottom (root plate) of the bulb. Press the bulbs into the soil with the pointy tip upward and the flat end of bulb downward. Replace one half of the soil and water the bulbs to help establish good contact with the soil and initiate root growth ; but be cautious of over-watering at planting since this can result in bulb rot. Generally, rainfall will supply enough moisture after the initial planting and during the growing season. Lastly, cover the bulbs with the remaining soil. and lightly tamp.

## Daffodil Bulb





Especially for bulbs planted in areas with southern exposure, place an inch or two of mulch over the newly planted bulbs. Mulching mitigates the effect up and down soil temperatures of a southern exposure. The freezing / thawing cycle of the soil can cause heaving your bulbs out of the soil , which will injure and possibly kill your newly planted bulbs.

### **After Care**

After dismal winter weather, nothing seems as needed as the vibrant color of spring bulbs blooms. However, after flowering is over, leave the green leaves growing until they wilt and die (a couple of weeks after last blooms.) This allows the bulb to store energy for growth again next spring. If the foliage is consistently removed early, the needed stored nutrient reserves will not be available to the bulbs and bulbs will weaken and eventually decline and die out. You can divert attention from the yellowing bulb foliage, by placing bulbs behind a border planting or shrubs, planting with perennials like hosta or other early perennial that are beginning to sprout, to cover the fading leaves.

Nothing should hold you back from planting spring bulbs now. With a little forethought and effort, and following the guidelines mentioned, you can have an early cheerful reminder that spring is on the way!

*Hardy - ability to withstand low winter temperatures and bloom year after year*

*Written by Sharon P. Flynt, Horticulture Agent, Scott County Cooperative Extension*

Below, the Keukenhof flower garden in South Holland, the netherlands, in Spring, 2024





# Botanical Pumpkins

October 29, 2024

1:00 p.m

Scott County  
Cooperative Extension

Class size is limited,  
please call 502 863 0984  
to register



All materials will be provided at class

## SAVE THE DATE

SCOTT COUNTY EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER  
VOLUNTEERS'

## PLANT SWAP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

9 am to 11 am

Scott County Cooperative Extension  
Parking Lot and Morton Building



Fall is a great time for  
dividing and transplanting  
your perennials or houseplants  
or collecting seeds!

### HAVE TOO MANY?

BRING YOUR EXTRA PLANTS  
OR SEEDS TO THE PLANT  
SWAP TO SHARE AND SWAP  
WITH OTHER GARDENERS!

PLEASE, HEALTHY, PEST-FREE PLANTS ONLY



Click on the HWW circle to register for Oct. classes

## Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays

 **Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

<http://tinyurl.com/24OCTHWW>

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification



When you add ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon to pumpkin and apples you have a wonderful Fall Spice Muffin that is delicious and healthy!




## Pumpkin Apple Muffins

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour	½ teaspoon ground ginger	1 ½ cups fresh pureed pumpkin
1 ¼ cups whole-wheat flour	½ teaspoon ground nutmeg	½ cup canola oil
1 ¼ teaspoons baking soda	1 ¼ cups honey	2 cups Granny Smith apples, finely chopped
½ teaspoon salt	2 large eggs	
1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon		

**Preheat** oven to 325 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine flours, baking soda, salt and spices. In a small bowl, combine honey, eggs, pumpkin and oil; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in apples. Fill greased or paper lined muffin cups, two-thirds full. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until muffins test done. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan.

**Note:** Can substitute two cups granulated sugar for honey, decrease baking soda by ¼ teaspoon and increase oven temperature to 350 degrees F.

**Yield:** 18 muffins

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 7 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 160 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 3 g protein



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

# Kentucky Winter Squash

**SEASON:** August through October.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Winter squash, which includes acorn squash, butternut squash, pumpkin and other varieties, is low in fat and sodium and an excellent source of vitamin A and fiber.

**SELECTION:** Winter squash should be heavy for its size with a hard, tough rind, free of blemishes or soft spots.

**STORAGE:** Store winter squash in a cool, dry place and use within one month.

**PREPARATION:**

**To Steam:** Wash and remove seeds. Cut squash into 2-inch cubes or quarter, leaving rind on. The rind will remove easily after cooking. Bring 1 inch of water to a boil in a saucepan and place squash on a rack or basket in the pan. Do not immerse it in water. Cover the pan tightly and steam the squash 30-40 minutes or until tender.

**To Microwave:** Wash squash and cut it lengthwise. Place in a baking dish and cover with plastic wrap. Microwave until tender, using these guidelines:

- Acorn squash: ½ squash, 5-8 minutes; 1 squash, 8½-11½ minutes.
- Butternut squash: 2 pieces, 3-4½ minutes.
- Pumpkin: 1 pound piece, 7-8 minutes.

**To Bake:** Wash squash and cut lengthwise. Smaller squash can be cut in half; larger squash should be cut into portions. Remove seeds and place squash in a baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees F for 1 hour or until tender. Seeds can be toasted at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes.

## KENTUCKY WINTER SQUASH

**Kentucky Proud Project**

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

September 2013

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COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE



Source: [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)



# You Should Know

The December and January *Growing Gardeners Newsletter* will be combined into one newsletter, and mailed in mid-December

## October Gardening Tips

### **Plants in Bloom**

- Aster, Goldenrod, Chrysanthemum

### **Plants with Colorful Berries**

- American Beauty Berry, Burford Holly, Chinese Holly, Foster Holly, Nellie Stevens Holly, Nandina, Pyracantha, and Washington Hawthorn

### **Planting**

- Plant spring flowering bulbs like daffodil, tulip, crocus and hyacinth this month.
- October is a good time to set out new landscape plants.
- Plant or transplant peonies this month.
- Plant pansy or ornamental kale plants now.
- You can start salad vegetables in a cold frame and enjoy them all winter. Plant lettuce, green onions, carrots, radishes, and most leafy greens inside the cold frame.

### **Pruning**

- Cut back herbaceous perennials after frost has killed the tops, and remove debris
- Remove damaged or dead wood from trees.

### **Tool Care**

- Clean and sharpen Garden tools and equipment. Oil them as needed for winter storage
- Store your garden pesticides in a dry, secured location that will not freeze.
- Clean spray tanks.

### **Lawn Care**

- Keep newly seeded areas watered.
- You can still seed fescue and bluegrass early in October.

### **Specific Chores**

- Start filling your compost bin as leaves begin to fall (shredded leaves are best) and turn the compost pile.
- If you have not or do not plan to plant a cover crop you can till organic material like shredded tree leaves into your vegetable gardening soil.
- Prepare bird feeders.
- Dig and store summer bulbs like gladioli, dahlia and caladium before frost.
- Remove all damaged and dead wood from trees and shrubs

Adapted for use in Kentucky by Sharon P. Flynt, Agent, Scott County  
Cooperative Extension Horticulture

from:   

