

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



Tips for Fall Planting

- *Fall is a good time to invest in crocus, scilla, glory-of-the-snow, and other hardy bulbs.
- *Planting bulbs - loosen the soil and make a hole with a trowel or bulb planter. Do not press the bulb into the soil, as this may damage the bottom of the bulb, causing it to rot.
- *Start taking cuttings of your annual plants to bring indoors and carry through the winter. Geranium, Coleus, Impatiens, and other plants do best when stem cuttings are rooted and kept in pots indoors through the winter. Be sure to place pots where they receive plenty of light.
- *Keep materials (heavy paper or cardboard) on hand to cover tender plants on the first nights of frost. If they can be protected, they may bloom for several more weeks.
- *You can plant lilies this fall for many years of beautiful flowering. Modern hybrids are available in many colors and grow 2 to 6 feet tall.
- *Every three to four years, separate crowded lily-of-the-valley crowns. Mix organic matter and fertilizer into the soil before replanting. Replant 3 inches apart.
- *As nights become cool, caladiums will begin to lose leaves. Dig them up, allow them to dry, and store them in a 40 to 50 degree F dry place.
- *As the temperature cools in this part of the state, it will be time to dig gladiolus as the leaves yellow. The tops should be cut off 2 inch above the top of the crom immediately after digging. After digging, dry the corms (about 10-20 days), separate the large corms from the small ones, and store them in damp peat moss at 40 to 50 degrees F where there is good air circulation.



Fall is a Good Time to Plant Trees and Shrubs

Want to give your new ornamental trees and shrubs a good head start on winter? Plant them in the fall so root systems will develop before severe winter weather arrives.

Fall weather conditions and internal changes in ornamentals help root systems grow and decrease transplant stress. Ornamentals also lose less moisture because days are shorter, outdoor temperatures are lower, and rainfall is adequate.

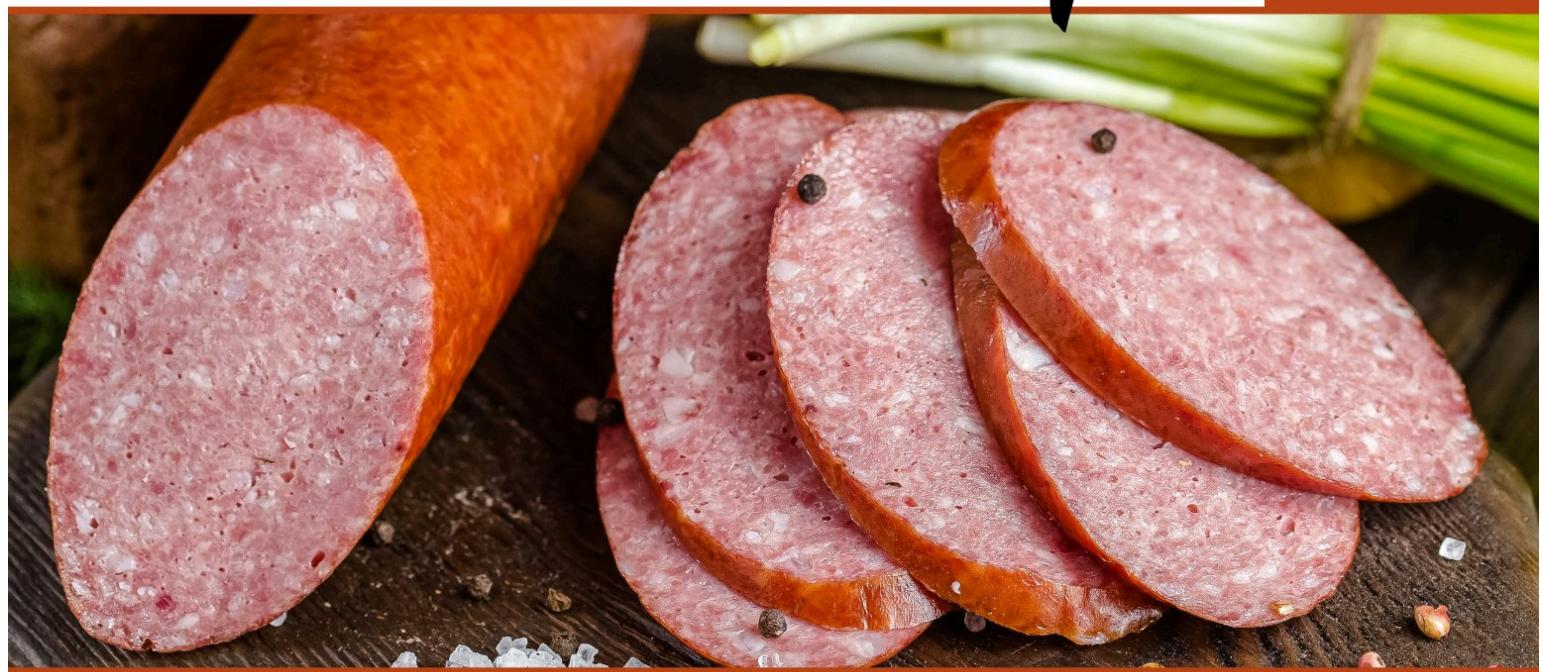
These weather conditions also help ensure enough soil moisture for plants to settle into a new location. During the fall, trees and shrubs undergo internal changes to increase their tolerance to adverse winter conditions. Although shoot growth declines, leaves continue to produce sugar and translocate it into the root system so plenty of energy is available to establish root systems. Woody ornamental root systems continue to grow so long as soil temperatures are above 40 degrees. So it's best to plant them six to seven weeks before soil temperatures drop below 40 degrees to let root systems become established. Here in Kentucky, now through November typically is the best planting time. To increase transplanting success, choose new ornamentals carefully. Pick ornamentals that are hardy in your area and are adapted to growing conditions where you will plant them. (adapted to zone 6 or above).

Ornamentals that you can transplant successfully in early to late fall include arborvitae, ash, coffee tree, cork tree, crabapple, elm, ginkgo, honey locust, juniper, katsura, linden, sugar maples, pagoda tree, pine, serviceberry and spruce. Wait until after leaf drop later in the fall to plant birch, flowering dogwood, oak, red maple, sweetgum and tulip poplar.

Some ornamentals you shouldn't plant in the fall are beech, black gum, Carolina silverbell, goldenrain tree, hickory, hop hornbeam, Japanese snowbell, redbud, yellowwood and zelkova. The main threat to ornamental survival is insufficient moisture during dry periods. Water plants thoroughly by using a soaker hose for several hours if it hasn't rained for two to three weeks. Plants that go into the winter with adequate water are more likely to survive the extreme environmental conditions of this season. Alternate freezing thawing cycles can heave plants out of the ground during the winter. To help prevent heaving, set trees at the same depth they grew previously. A distinctive color difference on the trunk bark indicates how deeply trees were set. Another way to prevent heaving is to mulch new transplants after planting and before the soil begins to freeze. Whether you're adding new trees and shrubs to a yard or moving existing specimens, planting them after the heat stress of summer but before they shut down for the winter will increase your chances for transplanting success.



SUMMER SAUSAGE Workshop



Join Us To...

- ✓ Learn The Steps
- ✓ Then Make Your Own Summer Sausage To Enjoy!



REGISTER BY:
October 24th



(606) 785-5329

UK Cooperative Extension Service

**Tuesday,
November 4, 2025**

5:30 PM

Knott County Extension Office
Multi-Purpose Building
(Meeting Room)

An Equal Opportunity Organization

ATTENTION BUYERS AND SELLERS

2nd Annual

East KY HAY

AUCTION

10:00am

December 13th

at The Robinson Research Station

130 Robinson Road
Jackson, KY 41339

Accepting Hay

December 11th and 12th

by appointment 8:00am -4:30pm

- **NO BUYERS PREMIUM**
- **10% CONSIGNMENT FEE**
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Fall Chores that Will Lead to Spring Success

As autumn settles in and temperatures begin to drop, it's time to prepare your garden for winter. Fall offers an ideal window to protect your landscape and lay the groundwork for a thriving spring. Here's a streamlined guide to help you get started.

Begin by clearing away fallen leaves, twigs, and plant debris. These materials can harbor pests and diseases, so remove and compost healthy matter while discarding anything that is infected. While most pruning of trees and shrubs should be left until late winter or early spring, fall is suitable for pruning dead or damaged branches. Remove any limbs that pose a risk during winter storms. Soil preparation is also key. Incorporate compost or organic matter to improve structure and fertility. Consider testing your soil's pH and nutrient levels to guide amendments for optimal spring growth.

Fall is the best time to fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Apply nitrogen in two or three doses spaced six weeks apart. Woody plants benefit from late-season feeding as long as soils are not frozen. Wait until the leaves on deciduous plants are turning colors to apply fertilizer to ensure proper hardening. If you are looking to spruce up your landscaping, fall is an ideal time to establish perennials, shrubs, and trees. Spring-flowering bulbs can be planted between mid-October and Thanksgiving.

Next, apply mulch to insulate your soil and tree roots. A two- to three-inch layer of organic material — such as wood chips, straw or ground leaves — helps regulate temperature, retain moisture and suppress weeds. While mulching, assess frost-sensitive plants. Cover tender annuals and tropicals with frost cloth or burlap on cold nights and move potted plants to sheltered areas to prolong growth and flowering for a few days. Watering before a freeze can help, as moist soil retains heat better than dry soil.

Finally, consider wildlife as you winterize. Leave seed heads for birds, create brush piles for small mammals, and install feeders. Piles of fallen leaves may also provide overwintering sites for butterflies, their larvae or other beneficial insects. Berry-producing shrubs and ornamental grasses add seasonal interest while supporting local ecosystems. By completing these essential tasks, you'll safeguard your garden through winter and ensure a vibrant return in spring.



Rejuvenating Your Kentucky Lawn: Fall Lawn Care

Taking care of your lawn during the fall is as important as it is during spring and summer, even more so for lawns with cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Nearly all fertilizers and broadleaf herbicides should be applied in the fall, and it is by far the best time for lawn renovations, such as seeding. When it comes to the timing of renovations, spring is better than summer, but fall is best of all.

Here are some tips for cool-season grasses:

Fertilize – Fertilizing your lawn in the fall will help it grow stronger, thicker and greener. Cool-season grasses should be fertilized with nitrogen in the fall as temperatures begin to cool and days shorten. Applying later in the fall when cool-season grasses are actively growing can help rejuvenate the lawn after a stressful summer and improve competition over undesirable warm-season weeds such as bermudagrass. Use either farm fertilizers, such as urea or ammonium sulfate, or specialty fertilizers found in garden centers. The normal rate is 1 to 1.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Remember to spread it evenly over your lawn.

Control weeds – If broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelion, plantain and chickweed are growing in your lawn, fall is the best time of year to get them under control. Almost all broadleaf weeds can be controlled selectively in turfgrass by applying a three-way mix of 2, 4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. This mix is old in many garden centers under various trade names. Applications in late October through November, after winter annuals have emerged, often result in better control of winter annual broadleaves and perennial broadleaves compared to spring applications. Make the application on a warm day, sometime after the first frost of the season.

Renovate – Summer's stresses often take a toll on your lawn. The best time to reseed your lawn is from late August through October. Because the goal is to get the seed in close contact with the soil, it is recommended that you first remove surface debris and mechanically groove the soil. This can be easily done by traversing the lawn with a dethatching machine that can be rented at many rental centers. Seed a turf-type tall fescue at a rate of five to six pounds per 1,000 square feet. To avoid uneven application, spread half the seed horizontally across the lawn and the other half vertically. The best and quickest results are obtained if the seeded areas can be kept moist until the seeds germinate.

Remember to continue mowing your lawn as long as the grass is growing. You might want to lower the height in the fall to 1.5 to 2 inches. This tends to keep the grass greener longer in the winter and will help the lawn to green up earlier next spring. It might even help increase turf density.



Keep Your Chickens Healthy This Winter



Keeping your chickens happy and healthy in the winter is important, but maintaining a cozy and vigorous flock during the colder months demands diligent care.

Chickens, which typically have an internal temperature around 106 degrees Fahrenheit, may experience cold stress when the environment's chill overwhelms their heat-generating capabilities. Indications that your chickens might be feeling the cold include behaviors like feather fluffing, huddling and tucking one foot up to their body for warmth. When such stress is prolonged, it can impair their well-being and could be fatal.

When considering your flock, it's vital to recognize that not all breeds are equally winter-resistant. Heavier breeds, such as the Plymouth Rock or Orpington, tend to endure cold better than their lighter counterparts or those with substantial combs and wattles, which are susceptible to frostbite. Monitoring the flock dynamics, especially if diverse breeds are present, is crucial since bullying over resources can leave some chickens malnourished and more vulnerable to the cold.

Preparing your coop for the winter is fundamental. It should be a sanctuary, protecting against elements and predators alike. Roosts are essential, providing an elevated perch that shields them from the cold ground and also allow the feet to dry better. These should be crafted from materials like wood, avoiding metal or plastic, which can aggravate the cold. Perches should be spacious to prevent overcrowding, but cozy enough to allow shared body heat.

Managing airflow is essential; you must ensure adequate ventilation to prevent the buildup of harmful ammonia and moisture accumulation. Chickens can withstand relatively cold temperatures as long as they are dry. You may need to insulate the coop to keep the warmth in. On below freezing nights, it may be necessary to provide supplemental heat.

Historically, infrared heat lamps have been used to provide supplemental heat, but they can be a major fire risk. Alternative heat sources that have lower fire risk are now available. Use only equipment designed for livestock, and always have installations carried out by a professional.

Regarding nutrition, chickens' dietary intake tends to increase during winter since they require more energy to keep warm. Treats like scratch grains are beneficial for their warmth-inducing digestion and as an activity stimulant, but should be offered sparingly and never mixed with a complete, nutritionally balanced feed as it would dilute nutrients. Ensuring continuous access to unfrozen water is equally important because chickens will not eat if they cannot drink.

Egg production might dip due to reduced daylight; therefore, some opt for supplementary lighting to stimulate laying. It is important that the number of light hours per day never decreases during egg production. A minimum of 14 light hours per day (no more than 18) is recommended to maintain egg production throughout the year.





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HONEY TASTE TESTING

** Bring Your Farms BEST Honey to Share
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POT LUCK DINNER

*** Please call the office (606-785-5329) to sign-up
for the potluck dinner and let us know what you will
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

6:00 PM ~ KNOTT EXT OFFICE
(MAIN BLDG MEETING ROOM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

→ **Sign-Up By: NOVEMBER 10th**
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