ESTILL COUNTY FARM SCOOP

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

Cooperative Extension Service
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Keeping Birds Away from Ripening Small Fruits

Source: Delia Scott, Department of Horticulture Extension Associate

Birds that feed on ripening small fruit can be a problem for homeowners with plantings of blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and grapes.
There are multiple techniques that may be effective in keeping birds away, depending on bird populations and other available foods. These include using bird scare balloons with large eyes on the sides, placing rubber snakes or owls around plants, hanging aluminum pie pans or old CDs that blow in the breeze, or using reflective tape over and around the plants. These techniques are more effective if used before the bird problem develops. Birds will eventually become accustomed to scare devices, so repositioning them frequently is necessary.

Another effective technique controlling bird feeding is the use of exclusion netting. There are many types of netting available, from fine-meshed netting that also excludes insects to large-meshed netting designed exclusively for bird control. Using a structure is often recommended to keep the netting off the plants, as well as to make harvesting more enjoyable. Photos of bird netting setups and structures can be found at https://www.uky.edu/hort/bird_netting_pics on the UK Horticulture Department website. Once birds have found fruit, it is difficult to discourage them from continued feeding. Birds will eat fruit long before it is considered ripe, so be sure to apply nets or use scare tactics before fruit begins to color.

In this issue:

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Cooperative Extension Service

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Lexington, KY 40506

Estill Conservation District Soil Quality Cost Share Program

The Estill County Conservation District has set aside cost share funds for a Soil Quality/Cover Crop Program. The purpose of this program is to help Estill County farmers and gardeners with the use of diverse cover crops improving soil health which is the capacity of the soil to function. The Conservation District will provide cost share to establish these pre-selected, diverse cover crops. THE SIGNUPS WILL BEGIN JULY 22ND, 2024 AND CONTINUE THRU AUGUST 2ND, 2024. There is a limited amount of funds set aside for this program and approval will be on a first come-first served basis. Program guidelines can be obtained at the Conservation District Monday –Friday 8-4:30pm, or 723-5104.

Summer Heat Safety

By Jane Marie Wix - National Weather Service Jackson, KY

Summer heat arrived with a bang in mid-June across Kentucky! Unfortunately, we are only getting started with the summer season - there will most certainly be several months of hot weather ahead. Summer is also the season when everyone wants to be outside, either working or having fun. As much as we love this time of year, it is also a very dangerous season.

Heat continues to be the deadliest form of weather across the country. Higher than flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Sadly, statistics for last year showed a higher-than-average fatality rate. Heat related deaths have been creeping up every year for the last few years.

During excessive heat, avoid heavy activity and direct sunlight. Stay hydrated, find a cool indoor place, and check on children, the elderly, and pets. Protect yourself outside by wearing light, loose-fitting clothes, stay hydrated, and spend time in the shade. Also, never leave anyone (or pets) alone in a locked car, even in the winter, as death can occur in as little as 10 minutes.

Know the signs:

- Heat Exhaustion: Becoming faint or dizzy, excessive sweating, cool/clammy skin, nausea, rapid/weak pulse, muscle cramps.
- Heat Stroke: Throbbing headache, no sweating, red/hot/dry skin, nausea, rapid/strong pulse, possible loss of consciousness.

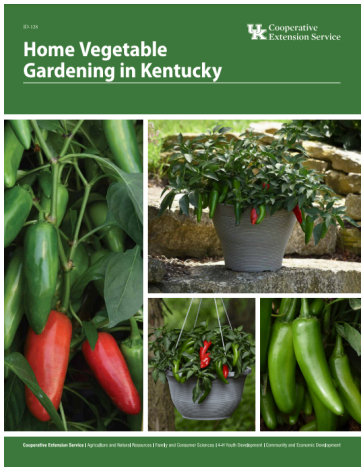
If someone experiences these symptoms, get them to a cooler place and try to cool the body (loosen clothing, drink cool water, etc.). If it's a heat stroke, call 911 IMMEDIATELY.

Table 20.15. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 6.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date[1]		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20		(Spring only)	
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15		(Spring only)	
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15		(Spring only)	
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15		(Spring only)	
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

[1] Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.

Copies of ID-128 Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky can be picked up at the Estill County Extension Office!



Common Rust vs. Southern Rust in Corn

Common Rust

Common rust of corn, caused by the fungus Puccinia sorghi, is easy to find in corn fields in Kentucky this year. The fungus that causes common rust produces brown to brick red pustules that are present on upper and lower surfaces of the leaves (Figures 1 & 2). Young leaves are more susceptible to rust infection than mature leaves. In most years, common rust does not require management in hybrid field corn in Kentucky, and the greatest concern is that common rust is accidentally confused for the more damaging disease, southern rust.

Figure 1. *Common rust in corn (Photo: Kiersten Wise)*

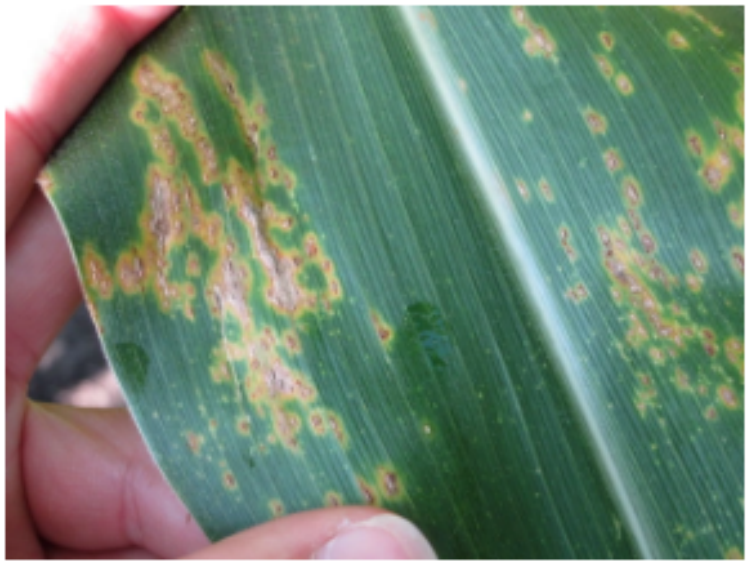


Figure 2. *Common rust in corn (photo by Kiersten Wise)*

Southern Rust

Figure 3. *Southern rust in corn (Photo: Kiersten Wise)*

Southern rust of corn, caused by the fungus Puccinia polysora, has been confirmed in Louisiana and Georgia so far in 2024. As of June 18, it has NOT been confirmed in Kentucky. We typically confirm southern rust in Kentucky in mid-July each year, depending on weather conditions. Southern rust is first observed as raised, dusty orange pustules on the upper surface of the leaf (Figure 3). Pustules will typically be present only on the upper surface of the leaf.

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Determining Which is Which

These diseases are easily confused, and signs of the disease can vary depending on hybrid and weather conditions. Pustule position on the leaf surface (both sides of the leaf vs. upper leaf surface only) can help distinguish between the two rust diseases, but the only fail-proof way to know the difference between common and southern rust is to examine fungal spore size and shape in a diagnostic laboratory. Spore color and pustule distribution on a leaf are not reliable diagnostic techniques for these two rust diseases. If southern rust is suspected, the fastest way to get a diagnosis through the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (PDDL) is to submit samples through county Extension agents. Confirmations of southern rust will be posted on the cornipmpipe website. On the map, red counties/parishes indicate that southern rust has been confirmed by university/Extension personnel. It will be important to scout and monitor fields over the next few weeks and submit samples to the PDDL through local county Extension agents if you suspect you have southern rust in a field.

Disease Impact & Fungicide Applications

The potential impact of southern rust in Kentucky will depend on the crop growth stage of a field once southern rust is confirmed in an area. Previous research from southern states indicates that fungicides may be needed to protect yield while corn is in the tasseling through milk (VT-R3) growth stages. Once corn is past milk (R3), fungicides are likely not needed to manage the disease. If fields have already received or will soon receive a fungicide application this year at tasseling/silking (VT/R1), they are not likely to need a second application of fungicide once corn reaches the blister (R2) growth stage. For areas where planting was significantly delayed, careful scouting and monitoring for disease presence is key to determining if or when a fungicide will be needed for southern rust management.

Additional Information

More information on timing of fungicide applications for southern rust can be found in Table 2 of the Crop Protection Network publication on Southern Rust. The efficacy of specific fungicide products for southern rust are described in the updated fungicide efficacy table for management of corn diseases, which is developed by the national Corn Disease Working Group.

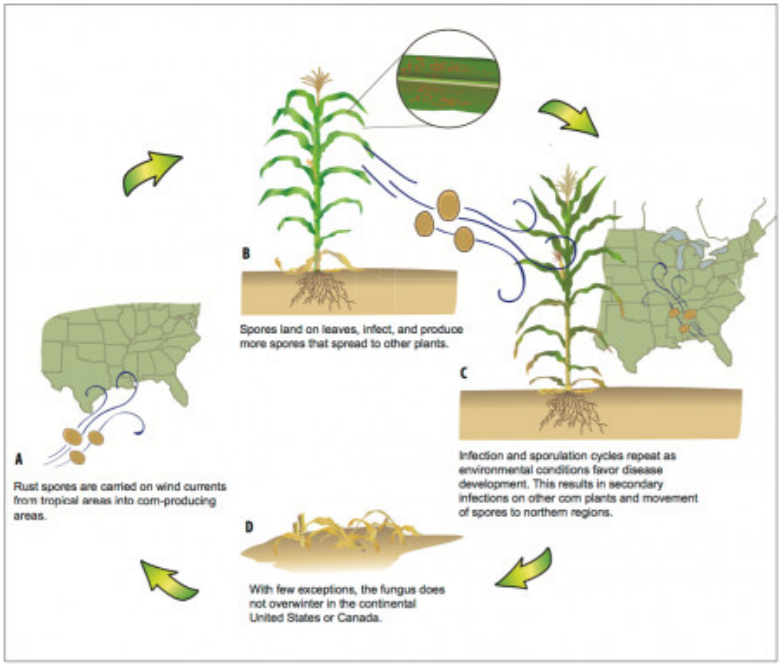

Figure 5. Life cycle of the southern rust fungus.

Picture: https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/an-overview-of-southern-rust

CAIP

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals applying for a Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund CAIP grant are required to have a minimum of one-educational hour.

Monday, July 9th at 1:00 p.m.
Small Fruit Disease Management

Monday, July 29 at 1:00 p.m.
Integrated Pest Management in Raised Beds

Monday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m.
To be determined

Monday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m.
To be determined

The above CAIP educational opportunities will be held at the Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court, Irvine.

To attend any of these classes, please call 606-723-4557 to sign up.

Emma Lee

Emma Lee, County Extension Agent for Agricultue & Natural Resources

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

ESTILL COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

50 River Drive, Irvine KY

Tuesdays from 6 to 8 pm
June through August

Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm
June through October

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

SMALL FRUIT DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, July 9th at 1p.m.

Estill County Extension Office, 76 Golden Court, Irvine, KY

Join ANR Agent, Emma Lee, to discuss common diseases of berries and brambles. Learn about proper management of small fruits to treat and prevent diseases in the future.

This class is CAIP eligible. For more information or to sign up, please call (606) 723-4557.

Limited spots available. Must call (606)723-4557 to register.

Emma Lee

Emma Lee,
County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

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Estill County
76 Golden Court
Irvine, KY 40336

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For more Plate it up recipes visit
https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud

Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium zucchini, sliced
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1 medium summer squash, sliced
4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
Prepare onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¼ 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.