

New Ground

Barren County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

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Chris Schalk



Barren County Extension Agent for
Agriculture

A Message from Your Agriculture Agent

Wow, it's sure been an interesting growing season to say the least. Producers have been faced with challenging growth conditions, supply chain issues, and sky rocketing input costs. As we settle into harvest season we are going to see yields all over the boards. Commodity prices are strong at this time, but cost of production is at record highs. Planning for the 2023 growing season needs to start very soon. Locking in and ordering inputs, getting soil samples taken, and learning from 2022 will help lay the foundation of 2023.

Inside this issue of New Ground we'll have educational information from the Master Gardeners. How about those Master Gardeners? I hope you've stopped by the Extension office to see all the demonstration gardens and the new certified Monarch Butterfly way-station.

Barren County producers should be aware that CAIP applications are currently available at the Barren County Conservation office. Applications are due November 10th. A detailed calendar of upcoming events and educational opportunities is included in this issue. Please mark your calendars. Never hesitate to call us at the Barren County Extension Office for more information on any upcoming program.

If you're an early riser, be sure to check out the Get the Scoop daily radio show each weekday morning at 5:00AM of 95.1 WGCC.

Hayfield to Hay Rings



Topics:

- Getting the best quality out of your forage
- How to properly take a hay samples
- Minimizing Hay Waste
- How to interpret your forage analysis results

This program will be held at the Metcalfe County Farmers Market Pavilion at 422 East St. Edmonton, KY 42129

October 27th @ 6:00 PM

RSVP BARREN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

This program is brought to you by Allen, Barren, Hart, Metcalfe & Monroe County ANR Agents

Hayfield to Hay Rings

Hayfield to Hay Rings” is an educational program for forage producers. This program is designed to provide information that will help farmers lower the costs of producing forages; increase the quality of their hay or baleage; and minimize their feeding waste. A demonstration of forage sampling will be presented, and interpreting the results from a forage test will be discussed.

Forage input costs have risen dramatically, and so has the prices for forages. Farmers are always looking for ways to save money and improve their efficiency and profitability. You are invited to join us and discuss some management tips that may help your overall forage operation.

Hayfield to Hay Rings will be Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:00 pm.at the Metcalfe Co. Farmers’ Market Pavilion. The address is 422 East St., Edmonton, KY 42129. Everyone is welcome!

This meeting is a partnership of the Allen, Barren, Hart, Metcalfe, and Monroe County Cooperative Extension Services.



**Contact us at
270.651.3818
for more information**



virtual option available

Complete Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA)

November 10

December 8

January 5

EACH DAY TWO CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED:

9:00 AM OR 6:00 PM

Please call 270.651.3818 to register



Garden Space for Grandma: High Raised Bed

Some 65 to 90 year-olds are finding that high raised garden beds are a way to continue to enjoy gardening and make a garden space that is safe, accessible and enjoyable. Making one can be a great project for adults and teens to do together. There are many styles of raised beds online, but older people often enjoy sitting while gardening on a raised bed that is build with a sturdy, well supported flat top railing at least 6" wide with the sitting rail near the same height as the crease at the back of the older person's knee. A deck or porch garden for those standing in walkers or sitting in wheelchairs can be made from 18" to 24" planting bins sitting on top of extra deep, sturdily built flat platforms.

Because older people might have decreased eye sight and balance, it is important to eliminate tripping hazards and obstacles. For those with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, choices for the ground around the bed include a hard level surface, or long lasting, commercial grade heavy-duty woven landscape fabric stretched smoothly over dry compacted level ground and secured well with jumbo 6" landscape stakes to prevent any flaps that might trip. The hose should be set up to be completely out of the walkway and hose sprayers that adjust with the thumb can be easier for arthritic hands than squeeze sprayers. A place in the garden for tools and a shoulder bag for carrying produce and plants helps allow an unobstructed view of the walkway and keeps hands free to help protect from falls. Because older people might be more susceptible to temperature changes, fatigue, and dehydration, a garden space should have a chair with arms for a place to rest in the shade and drink water.

There are many other tips for older gardeners and their gardens from the website "Gardening for Older People" at <http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au>



Lorena Steenbergen,
Master Gardener



SEEDS

Seeds come in an amazing variety of shapes and sizes. All seeds have one common quality; they are living links between generations of plants.

Most seeds remain viable several years. However, some retain vitality for only about a year. Others can germinate after 5 years or more if storage conditions are favorable.

Moisture and warmth encourage seeds to germinate. When a seed absorbs water, it's internal pressure rises, rupturing the seed coat. Growth hormones kick in directing vital compounds to where they are needed.

The first part to emerge is the primary root. A stem grows upward in response to light and the seed leaves unfold. Once germination has begun you can't reverse the process. If sprouted seed received proper moisture, the correct temperature and light conditions, it continues to grow. If not, it dies.

Most seeds have no specific light requirements for germination. However, some require light and others germinate better if covered with black plastic or when kept in a dark area. Check seed packet for special germination requirements.

SEEDS (Continued)

Some seeds require certain conditions to be met before they will start to germinate. Innate dormancy ensures survival of these species, enabling them to overwinter or wait out dry spells before sprouting. These conditions can be overcome artificially through scarification or stratification.

Scarification involves breaking or nicking the seed coat, allowing water absorption more readily. Be careful not to damage the embryo.

Seeds of some other species need to be exposed to cold, moist conditions to break embryo dormancy.

Stratification simulates natural overwintering and can be achieved by storing seeds in a moist medium between 32 and 50 degrees. The length of time varies by species.



Leroy Mast,
Master Gardener

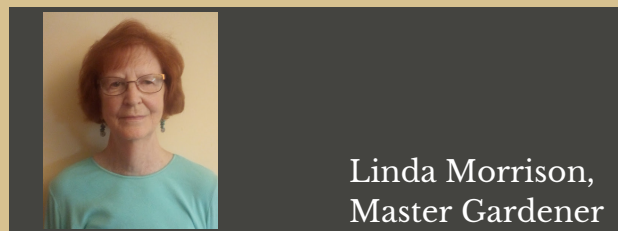
Extend Growing Season

If you would like to extend the growing season for fresh vegetables, now is the time to plant your fall garden. Gardening doesn't have to end with your summer-grown crops since some vegetables are suitable for late summer planting. Cool season crops will grow well during the cool fall days and withstand frost.

Cool nights slow growth. Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during falls warm days and cool nights. These conditions add sweetness and crispness to plants. Most seeds can be sown directly into the garden or outdoor containers. Germination in some seed is improved in cooler temperatures. Starting these seed indoors under cooler air will increase success.

When planting root crops, loosen soil 10-12" deep to allow downward growth. Keep soil moist and space plants as directed on package. When temperatures drop below freezing, you can extend the growing season by covering with row cover or lightweight cloth then remove cover during the day.

HAPPY FALL AND HAPPY GARDENING!!



Linda Morrison,
Master Gardener

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