

# Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

## September 2025

### Table of Contents

Calendar of Events.....2

Spotted Lanternfly Management Options.....3

Upcoming Events.....3-4

Why Natives?.....5

Butternut Squash Health Bars.....6

*Kara Back-Campbell*

Kara Back-Campbell  
Extension Agent for Horticulture

kara.back-campbell@uky.edu

Visit our website!



Follow us on Facebook



### MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



#### Eligible Investment Areas:

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

Administered by  
Taylor County Cattlemen's Association  
1143 South Columbia Avenue  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
(270) 465-4511  
taylor.ext@uky.edu

### TAYLORCOUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

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

#### Application Period:

**August 25 – September 12, 2025**

*No applications will be accepted before August 25 or after September 12*

#### Application Availability:

Taylor County Extension Office  
Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

#### For More Information:

Contact Kara Back-Campbell or Kelsey Marcum at (270) 465-4511 or email [taylor.ext@uky.edu](mailto:taylor.ext@uky.edu)

*All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.*

## Spotted Lanternfly Management Options

As spotted lanternfly (SLF) populations grow in the Bluegrass, there are lots of questions about what can be done to deal with this troublesome and eye-catching bug. Responses can vary by the location of the problem and the severity of the infestation. In counties where there have not been reports before, it would be appreciated if folks would reach out to the Office of the State Entomologist or the UK Department of Entomology. If you live in an already reported county and have hundreds of spotted insects hopping around your trees, there are also some options for management.

*Continued on page 3.*



Photo: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Cooperative Extension Service  
Taylor County  
1143 South Columbia Avenue  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
PH: (270) 465-4511  
FAX: (270) 789-2455  
[kara.back-campbell@uky.edu](mailto:kara.back-campbell@uky.edu)

### 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



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

# September 2025

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                             | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|-----------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CAIP Application Accepted August 25 through September 12 | 1<br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>Office Closed                               | 2  | 3         | 4<br><br>4-H Entomology Group<br>3:30 PM | 5                                  | 6<br>Farmers' Market OPEN<br>8:00 - 2:00 PM  |
| 7  | 8<br>Busy Bloomer Garden Club<br>Topic: Hardy Garden Mums<br>1:00 PM | 9  | 10        | 11   | 12<br>CAIP Applications Due Today! | 13<br>Carnival at the Farmers' Market<br>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM<br>MARKET OPEN<br>8:00 - 2:00 PM |
| 14   | 15   | 16<br>Fall Garden Lights<br>10:30 AM & 5:30 PM   | 17        | 18<br>Green River Beekeepers<br>7:00 PM  | 19                                 | 20<br>Farmers' Market OPEN<br>8:00 - 2:00 PM   |
| 21   | 22<br>Rinse & Return at Taylor County Road Department<br>10:00 AM    | 23<br><br>4-H Horticulture Group Stepping Stones<br>3:30 PM | 24        | 25   | 26                                 | 27<br>Food Truck Festival at the Farmers' Market<br>8:00 AM until trucks sell out            |
| 28   | 29   | 30<br>Fall Door or Garden Signs<br>10:30 AM & 5:30 PM  |           |  |                                    |  |

**\*All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.\***

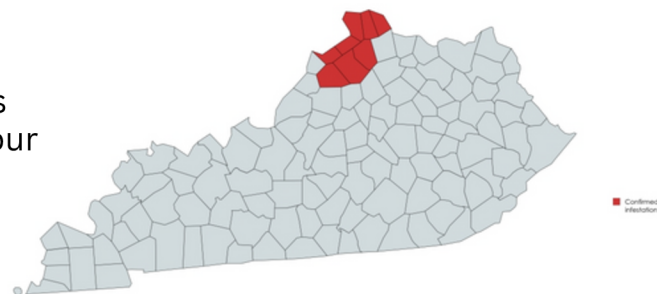
To RSVP for the classes, call the Extension office at 270-465-4511.

## What is SLF and what is the situation in Kentucky?

As previously mentioned in KPN, this insect is an invasive species that has been known in Kentucky since 2023. Populations were first found in Gallatin County, though there have been subsequent finds in Carrol, Boone, Kenton, Henry, Owen, Grant, and Campbell Counties in 2024. The early years of the invasion are marked by noticing the pest in more and more locations in a county. After about five years, the populations should be quite high in invaded areas before a slow decline. In our infested counties, things are still in the “ramping up stage” of the invasive species roller coaster. While SLF is unlikely to kill many trees in Kentucky, the size of their populations and the prodigious amounts of honeydew they produce can be annoying.



Those finding a spotted lanternfly in counties not highlighted in the map can help by alerting entomologists in the state at [reportapest@uky.edu](mailto:reportapest@uky.edu) or consulting with your local Extension office. When making a report, please include an image or a physical sample of the suspect, otherwise it will be difficult to confirm the problem. It is also important to include geographic information about where it was found so entomologists can travel to confirm the severity of the situation.



*Northern Kentucky counties are experiencing an invasion of spotted lanternfly. The areas with confirmed infestations are highlighted in red.*

## Managing SLF in Kentucky

Residents in counties with growing infestations will find predominantly or only adults as of August 2025 and going into the fall. SLF will mostly be found feeding on tree of heaven, black walnut, grape, river birch, red or silver maples, willow or sumac at this time of year, though it's not impossible you will find them on other plants.

Kentuckians can choose to pluck and squish SLF or to pull them off plants and put them in buckets of soapy water. Penn State has also provided detailed instructions on how to build a “circle trap” to help suppress problematic populations. If you choose to use insecticides, there can be two approaches: treating host plants with systemic products or treating insects and plants with contact insecticides.

Trees can be treated by certified arborists with a systemic product containing the active ingredient dinotefuran until the end of September and starting again in July of next year. This product is not available for the general public to purchase and treat with themselves. It is labelled for use in Kentucky and for spotted lanternfly control specifically. Depending on the size of the tree being treated, the application may be made as a soil drench, trunk spray, or trunk injection.

There are some options to directly spray spotted lanternfly as well. These sprays do pose a potential hazard to non-target organisms (birds, butterflies, bees, fireflies, people, etc.) so consider the severity of your situation before choosing to treat. That being said, products that contain the active ingredients bifenthrin or beta-cyfluthrin will offer the most efficacy and last for longer periods of time on plant surfaces. These are pyrethroid products; they will work if sprayed on top of the insect or if the pests crawl through it later. Pyrethrin, an organic product, provides similar levels of suppression but lasts for much less time. Other organic options include neem oil or insecticidal soap, though they may not be as effective or last long after application.

By: Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 4-H Entomology Club

Spotted  
Lantern Fly



**Thursday,  
September 4  
3:30 p.m.**

*This is free and open to youth 9-18 (as of January 1, 2026). Spots are limited.  
Registration is required on Eventbrite.*

## Busy Bloomer Garden Club

This month the Busy Bloomer Garden Club will be learning all about Hardy Garden Mums!



**Monday, September 8  
1:00 p.m.**

*We will be meeting at the Taylor County Extension Office.*

## Taylor County Farmers' Market

The Taylor County Farmers' Market is open Saturday's from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM at 73 Animal Shelter Road (off Highway 210, past Wal-Mart).

### Special Events:



**Kids Carnival  
Saturday, September 13  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



**Food Truck Festival  
Saturday, September 27  
8:00 a.m. until trucks sell out**

## Green River Beekeepers

The Green River Beekeepers meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

### September Meeting:

**Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



Taylor County Extension Office  
1143 South Columbia Avenue  
Campbellsville, KY



## 4-H Horticulture Club

### Stepping Stones

**Tuesday, September 23  
3:30 p.m.**

*This is free and open to youth 9-18 (as of January 1, 2026).  
Spots are limited.*

**Registration is required on  
Eventbrite.**



## Fall Lights

Join Kara Back-Campbell, County Agent for Horticulture, in creating fall lights for your garden.

**Tuesday, September 16  
10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.**

*Spots are limited! Call the Taylor County Extension Office at (270) 465-4511 to reserve your spot today!*



## Fall Door/Garden Signs

Join Kara Back-Campbell, County Agent for Horticulture, in creating Do It Yourself fall door or garden sign.

**Tuesday, September 30  
10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.**

*Spots are limited! Call the Taylor County Extension Office at (270) 465-4511 to reserve your spot today!*



# Why Natives?

By: Annette Jefferson, Taylor County Master Gardener

Native plants are plants that have evolved in an ecosystem for years. Why not enjoy those benefits in your landscaping? These benefits include conserving water, creating habitat for local fauna, and providing food for pollinators and birds. However, the most important benefit is the low maintenance of native plants. Especially when established, fertilizing and watering are not necessary, only occasional pruning of stray branches. These plants also survive our winter's cold snaps much better than nonnatives. For more than a decade, I've strived to utilize only native plants in my central Kentucky landscape. It's important to give natives 3-5 years, at least, to really start to shine after planting. Selecting young natives that are no more than knee high when planted survive best. With our wet springtime, spring is my favorite time to plant. Autumn plantings, unless it is a rainy fall, will have to be watered regularly until there is a wet spell. Focusing on native shrubs and trees, here are a few favorites that bring beautiful blooms and/or interesting features to a yard.

## **Eastern Redbud (*cercis canadensis*):**

This small tree that heralds spring in Kentucky and the central and eastern U.S., lives in the edges of woods and does nicely as a specimen tree. Its vivid spring blossoms can range from pink to almost purple, and is one of the earliest food sources for pollinators. It has heart shaped leaves that turn yellow in fall. I love this tree, though redbuds do shed branches over a season. It grows to around 25 feet, with an average life span of 25 years; however, we have one over 50 years old, though it is starting to die back. Redbuds are my go-to tree when I need a tree planted because they self seed easily and I have dug up volunteers and moved to desired locations many times.

## **Ninebark (*physocarpus opulifolius*):**

Distinctive, peeling bark gives this eastern U.S. shrub its name. Ninebarks have pretty spring blossoms that attracts lots of pollinators. The elegantly drooping foliage can be vibrant green to a lovely burgundy,



depending on the cultivar, that does well in full sun. They grow 5-10 feet in height and width. I replaced my burning bushes with ninebark shrubs, and after three years they have really come into their own. Ninebarks are easily propagated by placing a rock on the branch to insure contact to the ground of wayward branches. Give a season for roots to develop, dig up and move the new ninebark plant to its new location.

## **American Fringe Tree (*chionanthus virginicus*):**

I got my first real look at a Fringe tree at Clay Hill Memorial Forest, here in Campbellsville, and had to have one. I mail ordered two trees, though native to eastern U.S., they are not common here in central Kentucky. Fringe trees have unique white fringe-like petals that bloom in late spring. It has showy blue-black fruits that birds enjoy in the fall. For the most blossoms, plant in full sun though it does well in partial shade. Also, the blossoms are sweetly scented making it extra special in the spring. They grow 12-15 feet in height and width. Fringe trees take about five years to really start to grow and to have spring blossoms, though well worth the wait.



## **American Holly Tree (*Ilex opaca*):**

We found a small holly tucked away in our woods and decided to move to the back yard. This tree has become a favorite. In late winter, the American Holly drops a lot of its leaves, and you begin to wonder if it's dying. Then new leaves emerge, with an inconspicuous spring blossom. But my goodness, the smell is heavenly. This tree will be humming from all the pollinators buzzing around. Growing into a large tree that is 40-50 feet high, and 20-40 feet wide, a holly will need some space. It does well in partial shade to full sun. It grows slowly, so it will take at least five years to really get growing. This tree is another tree that is well worth the wait.



## Butternut Squash Health Bars

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>¾ cup</b> all-purpose flour    | <b>¼ teaspoon</b> salt                   | <b>½ cup</b> unsalted butter,<br>softened  |
| <b>¾ cup</b> whole-wheat flour    | <b>1½ cups</b> cubed<br>butternut squash | <b>1 cup</b> light brown sugar             |
| <b>1½ cups</b> old fashioned oats | <b>2 teaspoons</b>                       | <b>¾ cup</b> semi-sweet<br>chocolate chips |
| <b>½ cup</b> sliced almonds       | pumpkin pie spice                        |  |
| <b>1 teaspoon</b> baking soda     |  |  |

**Preheat** oven to 425 degrees F. Lightly **spray** a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with non-stick spray. In a medium bowl **combine** flours, old fashioned oats, sliced almonds, baking soda and salt. **Set** aside. **Place** squash cubes in a medium saucepan and **cover** with water. **Boil** squash for 20 minutes, or until tender. **Remove** from heat, **drain** and **puree** in a food processor. In a small bowl, **mix** the pureed squash and the pumpkin pie spice. In a large bowl, use a hand mixer to **beat** the butter and brown sugar until creamy. **Add** squash mixture and **blend** with the mixer. **Add** the dry ingredients to the squash

mixture and continue to **beat** until fully blended. **Spread** mixture into prepared baking dish. **Bake** for 20-25 minutes or until the top is a light golden brown. Allow to **cool** and **cut** into bars. **Melt** the chocolate chips by placing them in a microwave-safe container. **Microwave** on low power for 30 second increments until smooth, **stirring** often. **Drizzle** chocolate over top of bars.

**Yield:** 20 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 190 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 10 mg cholesterol, 95 mg sodium, 28 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 15 g sugar, 3 g protein.



Plate it up!

