

is Melody and I'm from Lyon County I'm in the master gardeners over there Um please write down any questions that you have because I have 49 slides to get through So at the very end I'll take any questions that you have because you know we go through a lot of material a lot of things hopefully will get answered at some point in the presentation Um I my focus is on small space decorative organic gardening And I do have a blog that I keep um my card was up front um when you all signed in if you want to follow along with me I just blog about what's going on in the garden You know this week I do it a couple of times a week and that's that's that's my focus Small space organic gardening Um I started doing edible gardening when I lived in Cincinnati on a golf course and they do have the landscape less there So you have to make sure it's pretty So that's how I I got started started into it Um and you know you the lots are not real big on the golf course You have little lots and a lot of golf course behind you And so um I started doing gardening in the garden beds and in pots This is a up here on the screen That's a picture of the back of our house when we lived in Cincinnati And the pots that are on the patio those are all edibles as well as you know flowers too to make it look pretty

right um so I'm happy to be here today the McCracken County um master gardener group asked me to come and so this is brought to you by both counties So what we'll cover today um are seasons and crop preferences Um examples of cool and warm season crops um because you don't want to plant crops that like chilly weather in the middle of the summer they won't do well in a pot And uh we'll talk about how to decide what to grow crops and pot size needed Um the smaller the plant the smaller the pot you can get away with Um pot preparation how to set your edibles and your flowers up for success um planting in pots and considerations um to take into account for care of of pots and then I'll answer questions at the end The objective is to cover what we can grow in Kentucky in all four seasons a basic understanding of what you can grow in containers how to decide what to plant and then to answer some questions So In Kentucky we do have four seasons Um and they basically when it comes to edible gardening they're divided out into two groups The cold season crops and the warm season crops We're just wrapping up cold season you know spring and we're getting ready to head into uh summer which is the warm season Um a a home garden can produce edibles in all four seasons Um you should grow the varieties that flourish in each of the seasons conditions Cool season crops are best planted in early spring for spring harvesting and then in late summer early fall for fall and winter harvesting Warm season crops are best planted in late spring after all danger of frost has passed Um and they will produce from summer all the way through until you get uh your first frost Sometimes some of them will survive until your first freeze Right now is the time to plant for warm season

crops Um here are examples of cool season and warm season crops So if you're thinking well what what would be good to plant now focus on these warm season crops because that's what we should be planting right now Things like artichokes basil bay laurel beans forage corn cucumbers edamame which is soybeans eggplant colra beet lemongrass lemon verbana mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar mar margarm melons malivore spinach New Zealand spinach parsley rosemary savory stevia okra peppers squash sweet potatoes and America's favorite tomatoes right so those are all the kinds of crops that are great to get into a container right now Um cool season crops they thrive during the cool days of spring and very early summer and then again in fall and winter Um when temperatures start to reach the 80s which we're going to have a lot of those next week according to the forecast the cool season crops are triggered to produce seed So what they do um for greens like in this pot right here that is red sail lettuce So that's what it looks like when it bolts I think it's beautiful right but they they send up a stock to flower and then to set seed For cauliflower and broccoli their fuettes produce pretty little yellow flowers So if you don't harvest your broccoli in time you'll it'll have nice pretty little yellow flowers all over it and you can actually pick that and put it in salads For many bulbing plants um it's the signal to produce their bulb and flour So like onions you know potatoes beets turnipss those types of things As the daylight hours get longer and it gets warmer they get the s the bat signal Okay my uh fun is over Time to set seed and continue on For cool season crops um to extend the season into colder conditions So you wanted to start earlier in the spring Instead of waiting until March you want to start in February or in the fall you know if you you can grow cold season crops again in the fall If you want to extend it all the way into the winter and maybe all the way through till next spring um give them a cover You know when you put a cover over a plant it warms it about a zone So we're zone seven Um giving it giving it a coat you know will bring it up to zone eight Um so that's like northern Georgia So it's you know it it helps it Um I typically can harvest I put a portable greenhouse cover over my greens Um and I harvest all the way through I mean I even through that really cold weather we have it didn't kill it didn't kill the plants that were undercover And in the picture up there you can see um a little portable greenhouse that I had If you want to keep them producing into hotter conditions so again these are crops that like it cool Um move it to a shadier spot move it to a cooler spot It's typically coolest on the north side And grow varieties from warm regions So you know grow grow lettuce that was um raised in Israel or you know southern Italy or Sicily or something like that Turkey you know the warmer where it's warmer all the time You know they're used to the warmer weather So they that can extend how long you can harvest Warm season

crops thrive during the warm days of early summer through fall They originated in temperate and tropical regions So they don't do well until the soil warms I just think of those poor little tomatoes that are used to the tropics and you go and throw them out there at the first of April when that soil is really cold and I can just see them shivering shimmering in that cold soil It doesn't it doesn't do a whole a whole lot of good to plant them really early because they don't they don't like it cold and that when it warms up I mean they'll they'll take off So you don't really gain anything Now you do really want to get them going early give them a cover you know to let the soil warm up and give them more warmth Um and many are killed by the first frost of fall Um basil's one that you know you get that first frost all your basil's gone Now tomatoes and peppers they'll make it through until you get a freeze Um extending the season for warm season crops Um you know practice succession planting So if you want your tomatoes to go until November you you put the first ones out in May maybe put the second ones out in mid June And when the first ones are starting to ramp down the second ones are coming on strong Grow our varieties that were developed in cooler regions later in the season or earlier in the season you know you if you you get a tomato plant that say a Siberian tomato it's really cold in Siberia So they can you know they're they're adapted to go out earlier and they would um handle the colder temperatures that going into fall as well Move them to a sunnier spot um you know when it's cool Southside is the warmest So for your summer crops you want to put them on the south side as it's warming up and then back again in the fall Um and use a cover when it starts getting really cold if you want to keep them

going So how to decide what to grow there's lots and lots to grow out there right i would start with what you love to eat and uh make a list research if they are a cool season or a warm season crop and plan to plant for the season they grow well in Um look at your potential gardens garden pot area Veggies and herbs do best in full sun You want you know at least 6 hours of sun Uh the more typically the more sun you have the more growth and the more fruits you'll get u from warm season crops Don't forget about decks patios sideways sidewalks and driveways Add it all up to see how much room is available for potted edibles You can grow a lot of food in

pots Take your plant list and see how many pots you can use based on the space you have You can grow multiple edibles with flowers in very large pots I typically um I don't see I don't know if I can I don't know how to silence it I'm sorry Um like my all my greens I grow them in an earth box All my lettuce um and I put I put like six lettuces in each earth box Um so if you have larger pots you can put multiple edibles in them And it's good to group the plants

together that like similar growing conditions You know lettuce likes moisture Um you know likes it cooler So and spinach So you put lettuce and spinach together Um for those that like it warm in drier conditions like tomatoes and peppers you know you could put those

selfwatering um pots can save a lot of watering time in the summer months So they're the ones that when you go to water they have a reservoir in the bottom that holds water Um or you can buy big catch pans you know and and fill up the catch pan so it can absorb water and you don't have to water like every other day Um I water about once a week in the summer with my pots but I use either selfwatering pots or I have large catch pans Herbs are by far the easiest edible to grow Mediterranean herbs they thrive on neglect They like it when it's dry when it's dry like that it actually concentrates their oils and makes them even more fragrant and and strong So if you're not sure where to start you know something like oregano chives um those are good ones to start with And in in my garden many varieties grow better in a pot There's some that I my edibles I have plenty of gardening now that I live out in Katawa Um but I still grow all my greens in pots I grow my um eggplant and peppers in pots um because they they seem to like it better I mean they're from tropical regions so it stands to reason that they'll like it in a pot because it's warmer than if they were in the ground Um and I um I'll even grow I've grown well I've grown just about anything that you can put in the ground in a pot too They make lots of varieties that are compact and um four containers If you look at Burpee or Fairy Morris it says on the front of the seed packet look at them It'll have a little clay pod on there and say container ready So there's lots and lots of varieties now that have been bred to be more compact Biggest thing start small and easy You know the first time you only try two or three pots You know don't go completely crazy as you're you know learning um how to grow that vegetable or that herb and that and those flowers Um and then next year you can just go crazy

So um these next few slides are based upon the size of pot that you have What can you grow in it um an 8 in wide by 6 to 8 in deep pot is about the smallest that you can really grow an edible um an edible in So you can grow um these things in a That's that small Carrots Carrots you have to get the ones that are little short ones or round ones you know not like 8 inch long ones you know So Thumbelina um is is one that's a nice small little carrot PMAK pond perogi And these these I haven't updated these in a few years They keep coming out with more and more varieties Um so this is not an exhaustive list Greens right there the pot that you see um on that slide that's dinosaur kale with a little patunia and in the driveway next to the garage door Um so you can grow you can grow greens in in smaller pots um and lettuce or

kale For containers that are 10 in wide by 10 in deep or larger then you can grow slightly bigger carrots and dwarf cabbage Um eggplant with small fruits You don't want like black beauty who gets great big fruits You know they there's just not enough soil in there to support that vegetative and fruit growth Um but you can grow the eggplants that do have small small fruits Um greens you can get into like French sorrel They're they they are a perennial that get uh can get quite large Salad brunette spinach herbs any remember Mediterranean herbs love having dry feet um lettuce You if you're going to take them to um let them get a full head um these are the types that you can use for that Peppers you want more of the compact type in pots this small Um radishes and

strawberries going up to medium size containers uh 14 to 16 in wide and 10 in deep or larger Um now you can grow beans um either compact bush types or runner or pole beans Um most pole beans they'll they'll get over six feet tall So you you'll need to use a trellis and you'll probably have to pinch off the top otherwise they'll come back down on you which I that could be okay but if you want to keep them kind of in control just pinch the top off You can grow any kind of beans broccoli wrap celery I grow celery all the time in a fond Celery loves moisture Um and it it it just it it stays there 365 days a year Celery is a great one to grow in a pot Um but you probably want to put it by itself because it will suck all the moisture out from everything else Any kind of chard Um they have sweet corn that you can grow in a pot Um and now if you're going to grow sweet corn in a pot you know you have to have 9 to 18 plants to get good pollinization So you have to probably handpollinate them to get you know a full ear but you can grow them in a pot Cucumber compact bush types So you know look in the description for bush cucumber but you can grow they cucumbers do well in a pot All types of eggplant um horseradish any all kales They're the picture on the right that's Egyptian walking onions in in a pot Um and they're a perennial onion I still have that pot and those Egyptian walking onions in my backyard but they're that they're a perennial You can harvest from them year round for containers that are 14 to 16 in wide and and 10 in deep Still these are just more that you can grow in there Okra onions peas all types of peppers Um so now you can even get the bigger fruing peppers Once you get up to this size pot you can grow tomatoes Now you need to look for the bush dwarf patio or compact types Um once bred to stay stay smaller Now anytime that you're going to grow a bush type plant or compact or patio you're not going to get as many fruits off of them as you would if you had a 5ft tall plant but it's probably you know enough for a couple of people you know And there's nothing like a vine ripened tomato Turnups any summer squash compact bush types again but there are compact bush types of squash um that do very

well in pots Now you're getting up to larger pots Um you can grow polymer apples any kind of beans blueberry bushes the smaller ones like top hat Um broccoli I really I grow sprouting sprouting broccoli in pots Um broccoli when you get the heading kind it takes a long time for um to get a harvest and you only get like just that one plant and the cabbage moth loves to in infest them Um whereas sprouting broccoli it grows and has lots of leaves and you can use the leaves and lettuce and then it will grow little fuettes that you can also you know pick off and put in your salad Um you can grow cantaloupe fig trees all kinds of lettuce peanuts uh peas all types peppers all types potatoes They even have potato boxes nowadays you know that are made specifically for you to be able to add more and more dirt to them Um shallots sweet potatoes watermelon Um for watermelon you'd have to stick with the smaller ones not the ones that grow 15t long but the the smaller watermelons winter squash compact bush types Um and then you get into the big pots So these are really large containers on the scale of a half whiskey barrel or wine barrel I kind of skipped over I didn't tell you what these plants are So this the the picture of this plant is some different lettuces in a larger pot The pot's about you know that big around It has snow peas in it and flowers Just This is a pepper plant with some arugula and patunias Ain't that pretty and then here's my earth boxes that have the um several greens in them And then over to the right is a a cabbage plant with a little patunia But when you get into really large containers like whiskey barrels you can grow anything in them You can grow fulls size tomatoes fulls size whatever Um they are big enough to grow anything that you want in there Or you can also put multiple plants in smaller plants in in something that size

Okay write it down Um here's just some example of different kinds of gardens that you could do for pots You could have a salsa spaghetti pizza garden You know if you want to get the kids or the grandkids interested in gardening and edibles Um you could you could do you could tell them it's their little pizza garden and you put peppers uh tomatoes garlic or cilantro and oregano and then it gives you you know the smallest pot that you could grow each of those in um salads uh for spring and fall You know if you want salads throughout the spring and fall season these are the the greens um that do well in the spring and fall And then you know again for cool season crops you know you give them full sun in the cool weather and then you want to give them some shade and kind of put them on the north side so they can stay cool as long as possible so that you can harvest from them as long as possible When they most lettuces when they start to bolt um they get bitter And charred it will get it'll get strong too Um when this starts getting really hot and for salads if you're growing lettuce in a pot you can just pick the outer leaves and let the inner part continue to grow So that way you get you know you can just harvest off of it until it bolts So um and then it's best to pick greens in the morning put them in water and put them in the refrigerator so

that they sweeten up for you by afternoon Summer So I spent a lot of time trying because I like salads Um I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what greens can tolerate our hot humid weather and still be sweet you know not bitter or you know immediately cold So so what uh what I found is there are heat tolerant lettucees that you can grow Um and then there's some I really use sprouting broccoli a lot red meal spinach New Zealand spinach um as as and um oric amaranth those are all greens that stay sweet all through the summer and you can eat them just like lettuce

Um and they like all greens like a little cool in the summer And then in the winter you know you're back to the same things that like the spring are the ones that like it whenever you're going into winter Just go ahead and get winter hearty lettuce and it'll say it on the packet if it's winter hearty lettuce That gives you the best chance of it um staying alive as long as possible Winter hearty spinach uh radishes peas chard dandelion greens arugula winter hearty kale um sprouting broccoli celery I harvest from my celery that I keep outside year round Um chickweed teragon mustard greens

And if you want to um have them last for sure all the way through the winter you can get a portable greenhouse and put over the top of them The biggest thing to watch out for whenever you start using covers is um not scorching your plants because you know how our temperatures go They're like you know they're a roller coaster And when it gets up in the 50s you really need to vent that cover Otherwise it'll get it'll get a lot hotter under

there And then you plant for your uh fall and winter greens You plant those in late summer Um look at um what the seed packet says on days to harvest add two weeks Takes two weeks longer in the fall um for something to come to full size You want it to full size by November if possible because that's when we get less than 10 hours of daylight and growth pretty much stops mid November to mid January until we start get back to 10 hours and more of

daylight You There's lots of fruits you can grow in pots Strawberries blueberries and berry bushes fig and colar apple trees citrus trees and goji berry bushes other dwarf vining fruits like melons and um of course get a big whiskey barrel and grow anything with it So you're you've seen all your crops You've decided on what you're going to grow Now it's time to get that pot ready Pots do should be revitalized every year You know you should um either

replace the soil with new potting soil that already and all of them already come with fertilizer in them or at least add a balanced fertilizer and mix well prior to planting Um after about three or four years I'll actually also add compost um and remix it up together Um practice crop rotation in your comps too I mean it's just like in the garden soil you know So you grow tomatoes one year try and grow lettuce the next Now I don't always do that and they seem to do fine Yeah

So um I just do it every year and then when I if I'm going to I I will I'll get into fertilizing But you know after for your pots if you're using like a liquid fertilizer you probably need to fertilize every other week during the growing season um to keep it to keep the nutrition in It it it depletes about twice as fast as it does in the garden soil because you're putting that water right on through it right so it leeches out a lot quicker than in the garden bed

Okay make sure your pot is big enough for your crop and pots tend to dry out faster than the garden and be warmer too But selfwatering pots or great big catch pans reduce significantly the need to water in summer Just real quickly on getting plants you can grow your own or purchase Um seeds you they've got lots of seeds in all the big box stores and local hardware stores Um they come in seed packets or you can get the ones in seed tapes that are automatically spaced for how far apart they should be If you start them indoors just make sure that you um ease them into the outdoor conditions You don't want to take them from your living room out into the full sun You want to give them about a week just kind of ease them on out there a little bit more sun every day because it's just like you in January if you go to Florida you wear sunscreen right otherwise you get a sunburn It's the same for the plants the sun will scald them Um you can buy transplants from nurseries farmers markets hardware stores big box stores or get extras you know from neighbors who garden But I they just have all kinds of varieties now that you can just walk in and buy plants of There's my I started seeds and those are paper towel cut them up you know put seed starting mix in it Start your

seeds When you're starting seeds outdoors make sure you follow the seed packet instructions Some seeds require daylight to germinate So if it says an eighth of an inch anything that says like an eighth of an inch it requires some sunlight to germinate So if you plant them too deep and the can't get to them then they won't germinate Others require darkness So you know if it says plant them an inch or two deep plant them an inch or two deep but just follow the follow the instructions And some require what they call



scarification which basically you you know you scratch the outside and put them in water say for 24 hours or something then that breaks the the seed hole so that they can then sprout Um One of the one of the biggest mistakes I made when I first started doing seed starting is I kept my soil too wet You just want it moist You do not want it stopping wet The seed will rot Um also if you for your plants you know initially they require more moisture than than as they go on As soon as they've used up that little seed nutrition then after that they have to start using their roots to to get nutrition and oxygen And if you keep that soil stopping wet basically you're asphixiating the plant because it has to have oxygen in those roots So that's just One of the biggest reasons why indoor plants die anyway is because they're kept too

wet Now fruits and veggies love flowers

Flowers attract pollinators and that's how you get fruits right in plants is is the pollinator pollinates the flowers which then produces the fruit So the more pollinators you have the more fruits you will have So adding a flower or decorative plant I mean looks great plus it gives you more to eat um determine what type of decorative plant uh to add based on the fruit or vegetable you're growing with it I don't there's this this saying that they have for when you're um gardening in pots and you want it to look pretty Thriller spiller and filler So the thriller is the main event It's usually the the tall plant or it's one that just has you know beautiful coloring That's your thriller And then the spiller So if you're growing an eggplant which is just a beautiful plant um you know it it has it has beautiful structure you know you grow a a spiller with it you know a patunia So a patunia and an eggplant a patunia and a pepper plant They look great together If you're growing a vining plant like strawberries an upright flower or decorative plant would be pretty or you could even grow another edible with it Um don't rule out adding edibles as the decorative touch like a short vining snow pee with red lettuce you know i mean that's a beautiful

combination So when you're gardening in Um what can go wrong well if you water inconsistently it can lead to blossom and rot in tomatoes So if you like and water water water and then don't water for a long time and then water water water it can cause blossom and rot It can also cause your tomatoes to crack um because all of a sudden they're they've got too much moisture Um it can cause greens to bolt prematurely if they're if they're getting too dry Greens like a lot of moisture Um so if you let them completely dry out um they can bolt sooner rather than later And it can cause the plant to die with inconsistent

watering and cool season you know they don't need as much So you don't need to be watering you know every other day if it's if it rained outside you probably don't need to water that week Um when it's cool outside and then in the summer you know if you're watering too little there's a lot the plant evaporates a lot of moisture out of its leaves you know to moderate its temperature Um so they need a lot more a lot more water in the summer The other thing to keep in mind is that when you pot a plant it changes the hardiness zone that that plant can tolerate So in a pot in the summer it's like being a zone hotter you know because the roots just get a lot hotter because they're exposed you know to those 80 and 90 degree days Um and then in the winter to be on the safe side if you want something that you're putting in a pot to blast through the winter I'd make sure it's a zone five or lower then you have a really good chance that it will survive So it's like two zones um colder for the pot and the plant is what it's experiencing Um fertilizing we kind of talked about this already It leeches out of pots at a much higher rate than garden soil So you will need to fertilize more often than in the garden bed So in the garden bed I normally use a granular fertilizer you know once a month Um in pots it's uh to really keep them growing it's like every other

week So summary of planting and care for edibles you want to plant in a full sun location can use a cover during cold snaps in the spring and fall Edible crops they need about three inches of water weekly um during the summer So they need about an inch in the spring and about 3 in in the summer To check to see if they need watering put your finger on down into that pot you know like that deep So if you're one that might be let's call a helicopter caretaker one that hovers all the time Stick your finger down you know almost up to your second knuckle If it's still moist down in there you don't need to water So that's just you know just something to use to see whether or not it's really time to water In the summer it's kind of hard to overwater them but you can do it It is possible Um keep an eye out for pests The easiest way to control them is to remove them by hand Um and keep a garden journal You know take pictures

Enjoy I I'm not going to I don't think I'm going to go through all this in case there's questions Um but I just wrote I just wrote up like all the ways that I use what I'm growing in the garden You know just different ways that you can actually um use them in in cooking eating um making gifts for others One of the things I do have on here um the ancho pleano pepper is the one that they make chili powder out of So if you want to if you use a lot of chili powder in the winter I grow I grow this every year so I can dry them and make chili powder Um the other the other thing up here this extra herbs all the herbs that I have you know I'll go

through in summer and probably again in fall and um cut them back You don't want to cut more than a third And then let them dry And then I just mix all that together And I put that stuff on everything I put it in my pasta sauce I put it on my chicken You know put it on my pizza I you know I put it in bread You know if you want an herbed bread put you put it in your butter for an herb butter Um but

I I have lots of family members that want me to give them my herb mix but it works great with everything there There's just some other things on here

Um you can make herb salts and sugars too and lavender sugar

Okay So gardening resources Um there's the home vegetable gardening in Kentucky This one you can look it up And then my blog Um my card was up there at the front Um so if you guys want to follow along on my small space gardening see what's going on in the garden this week you know feel free to do that And then we do have on your way out we have sweet pepper You get you get a sweet pepper plant and you get a patunia on your way out I did for those that really like hot peppers I only got four of them but there are four cayenne peppers out there and those things do great in pots You can even bring that cayenne pepper in in the winter and it'll it'll hang out all winter and then you can take it back out in April you have cayenne pepper So those little small peppers they do well like that So with that I want to open it up to questions