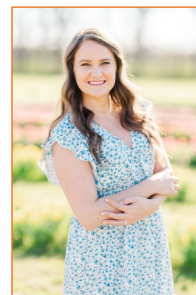


Mary Dessett

Agent for Horticulture



Horticulture Newsletter

**MONTH
2024**

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Master Gardener Spotlight

Virginia Vessels



Class of 2019



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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Black Knot of Stone Fruit (PPFS-FR-T-04)

Black knot is a common, often serious, disease of plums and cherries in Kentucky. Ornamental *Prunus* species, as well as wild plums and cherries, may also be affected. This disease is aptly named for the conspicuous black knotty growths that form on infected branches. Knots that were obscured by foliage during the growing season will be readily evident once foliage drops this autumn.

University of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food & Environment

Extension Plant Pathology



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Pathology Fact Sheet

PPFS-FR-T-04

Black Knot of Stone Fruit

Nicole Gauthier
Plant Pathology
Extension Specialist

Dennis Morgeson
Horticulture
Extension Agent

IMPORTANCE

Black knot is a common, often serious, disease of stone fruit, primarily affecting plums and cherries in Kentucky. Ornamental *Prunus* species, as well as wild plums and cherries, may also be affected. Trees in both commercial and residential plantings are susceptible.

SYMPTOMS

Black knot is aptly named for the conspicuous black knotty growths that form on infected branches (FIGURE 1). Initially, however, these irregular swellings or knots are small and light brown (FIGURE 2). One year after infection, the enlarging knots become olive-green with a velvety surface. As the season progresses, swellings harden, become brittle, and turn black (FIGURE 3), reaching lengths of 6 inches by the end of the growing season. Often only one side of a limb is affected (FIGURE 4); but, in some cases, limbs may become completely encircled. Knots continue to expand each year until girdled branches eventually die.

CAUSE & DISEASE DEVELOPMENT

Black knot is caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa* (syn. *Dibotryon morbosum*), which overwinters in knots on previously infected twigs and branches. Spores develop within knots in spring between bud break to shuck split and are spread by wind and rain. Only elongating (actively growing) twigs of the current season's growth are susceptible. While infection takes place in spring, knot development is not evident until autumn.

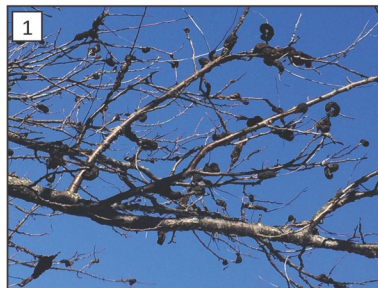


FIGURE 1. BLACK KNOT DISEASE IS EASILY RECOGNIZED, EVEN FROM A DISTANCE, BY THE BLACK KNOTTY GROWTHS APPEARING ON INFECTED BRANCHES.

FIGURE 2. EARLY INFECTIONS APPEAR AS LIGHT BROWN SWELLINGS (A), LATER TURNING BLACK (B).

Agriculture & Natural Resources • Family & Consumer Sciences • 4-H/Youth Development • Community & Economic Development

This newly revised fact sheet discusses symptoms, cause, disease development, and management options.

Black Knot (PPFS-FR-T-04) is available online.

For additional publications on fruit diseases, visit the UK Plant Pathology Extension Publications webpage.

By Cheryl Kaiser, Plant Pathology Extension Support, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist



The Extension office will be closed for scheduled maintenance on the building from **Thursday, October 17th through Monday, October 21st.**

Kentucky Strawberry Growers at Risk for Neopestalotiopsis Disease

In late August, Neopestalotiopsis disease was confirmed in strawberry cuttings across Kentucky. Some cuttings showed symptoms quickly, while others developed symptoms several days after becoming infected.

Neopestalotiopsis disease is caused by a fungus that can infect both cuttings and mature plants. Symptoms can range from leaf spots (Figure 1) to crown and root rots to fruit infections (Figure 2). The pathogen overwinters in debris and as melanized spores in soil. Once introduced to fields, it can survive 3 to 5 years.



Figure 1: *Neopestalotiopsis* leaf spots symptoms. (Photo: P. Brannen, University of Georgia)



Figure 2: *Neopestalotiopsis* fruit rot symptoms. (Photo: N. Peres, University of Florida)

Symptoms

Symptoms on leaves begin as light-colored spots with dark borders; spots expand rapidly to cause blighting and plant dieback. Leaf symptoms are easily confused with strawberry leaf spot and strawberry leaf blight. Fruit symptoms begin as tan lesions that turn orange and sunken. Fruit become mummified and develop large black fruiting bodies. Fruit symptoms can resemble anthracnose fruit rot. Symptoms progress rapidly under warm, humid conditions (68 to 85°F, 90 to 100% RH).

Spores are spread short distances by water splash and long distances by movement of infected plants. In Kentucky, Neopestalotiopsis disease was introduced by rooted cuttings and propagation material.

Management

- Avoid planting symptomatic plants or those sourced from a supplier with a history of Neopestalotiopsis disease.
- Infected plants **cannot be cured**.
- If you have been contacted by your cutting producer regarding potential infection, it is recommended to destroy plants immediately.
- Take extra caution to sanitize surfaces and tools. Avoid tracking soil/media to clean greenhouses and fields. The following resources provide additional information on best practices for sanitation.
 - Fruit and Orchard Sanitation (PPFS-GEN-05)
 - Greenhouse Sanitation (PPFS-GH-04)
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting Commercial Greenhouse Surfaces (PPFS-GH-07)
- Growers who need disease confirmation should work through their local Extension agent for diagnostic sample submission.
- Fungicides Switch and Thiram can suppress disease, but research trials have documented only 50% effectiveness in the highest rated spray treatments.
- Healthy plants can be protected with Switch, Bravo, or one of the fungicides listed in the *Southeast Regional Strawberry IPM Guide*.
- Organic producers should protect healthy plants with a rotation of Serenade Opti and Actigard. Organic management options are limited.

Additional Resources

- Southeast Regional Strawberry IPM Guide https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/AP%20119-5_2.PDF
- Neopestalotiopsis disease in strawberry: what do we know? (Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium) <https://smallfruits.org/2021/10/neopestalotiopsis-disease-in-strawberry-what-do-we-know/>
- Pestalotia Leaf Spot and Fruit Rot of Strawberry (University of Florida) <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PP357>

By Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

The New Extensions Publications Database Is Here!

Source: Tawana Brown, Associate Director for Education Publications at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The Extension Publications (pubs) website database has been a reliable resource for communities to strengthen, build and engage the Commonwealth—offering searchable pubs in five areas, which include:

4-H Youth Development (4-H) <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search/4-H>
Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search/anr>
Community and Economic Development (CED) <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search/ced>
Experiment Station (ES) <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search/experiment-station>
Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search/fcs>



The new database at <https://publications.ca.uky.edu> offers a more visual, intuitive user experience with an updated search tool to filter results by author, area, series title, or language (English or Spanish).

When reviewing publications, readers can more easily find author names, abstracts, core and categorical details, keywords and downloadable publication files. In addition, photo icons and updated links will give readers better visual and informational integrity.

Interested in reading some of the most recent Extension publications by area? Check these out:

- **4-H: Thriving in Food & Nutrition.** Positive youth development in 4-H doesn't just happen, the 4-H Thriving Model is used to predict the way that 4-H has its positive impact on youth development. This worksheet resource is intended for agents and volunteers to use when intentionally designing programs to promote high-quality, positive youth development experiences in Foods and Nutrition programming.
- **ANR: Planting Along Your Stream, Pond or Lake.** Kentucky has more than 90,000 miles of rivers and streams and thousands of ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands. You can improve your surroundings and the quality of your stream, pond, or lake by planting an area called a riparian buffer or buffer zone.
- **CED: Understanding Your Organization's Culture, ANR Facilitator's Guide.** Effective leaders profoundly affect the culture of their organizations. Leaders hire and fire, determine policies, and are organizational role models. All these factors impact an organization's culture. Therefore, it is important that leaders understand the basics behind culture and how to influence it toward desired results.
- **ES: Soybean Production Contest.** In Kentucky, farmers grow soybeans in two common soybean production systems: full season and double crop. Both systems are important to the overall production of soybeans in Kentucky. To document the agronomic practices utilized by producers, an annual soybean production contest was initiated in Kentucky in 1980.
- **FCS: Adding Up Vitamin A in the Diet.** What do sweet potatoes and beef liver have in common? They are both excellent sources of vitamin A. We need this vitamin for vision, immunity, growth, development, and helping our heart and lungs to work well.

Interested in browsing or searching all Extension publications? Visit <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/search>.

Contact your local McCracken County Extension office for more resources, tips and information.

Time to Plant Your Fall Garden

Source: Rick Durham, UK Extension Horticulture Specialist

As the summer warmth begins to wane, you don't have to bid farewell to the joys of cultivating your garden. This time between seasons offers a golden opportunity to plant a vibrant fall vegetable garden, promising an uninterrupted flow of produce throughout autumn. Alternating balmy days and brisk nights support a variety of cool-season vegetables for your family to enjoy.

Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights. These environmental conditions add sugar to late-season sweet corn and cole crops, such as cauliflower and cabbage, and add crispness to carrots.



Fall vegetables harvested after early September consist of two types: the last succession plantings of warm-season crops, such as corn and bush beans; and cool-season crops that grow well during the cool fall days and withstand frost.



When planting a fall garden, group crops the same way you would in the spring; plant so taller plants don't shade out shorter ones. To encourage good germination, fill each seed furrow with water and let it soak in. Keep the soil moist but not wet until seeds have germinated. Be aware that cool nights slow growth, so plants take longer to mature in the fall than in the summer.



You may use polyethylene row covers to extend the growing season of frost-sensitive crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. This helps trap heat from the soil and protect the crop from chilly night temperatures.



Often Kentucky experiences a period of mild weather after the first killing frost. If you protect frost-sensitive vegetables at critical times in the fall, you could extend the harvest season by several weeks.

Once these vegetables die due to lower temperatures, you may be able to plant cool-season crops in their place. Leafy greens like lettuce and spinach may grow into November or December under polyethylene row covers if outside temperatures do not drop below the teens. Be sure to allow for ventilation on sunny days to prevent overheating.

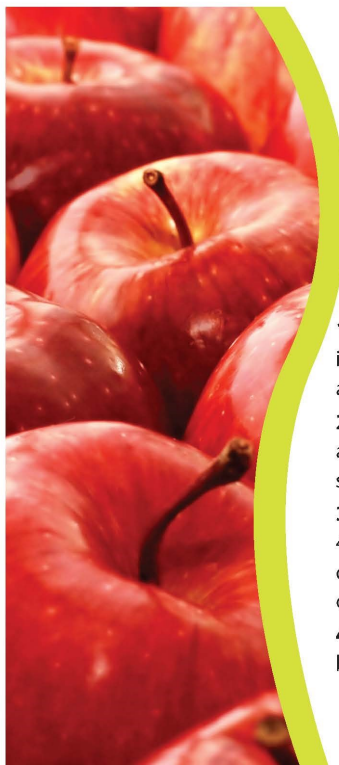


You may successfully seed or transplant the following vegetables now for fall harvest: Bibb lettuce, leaf lettuce, kale, mustard greens, radishes, spinach, snow peas and turnips for greens.



For more information about planting your fall garden, contact the McCracken County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Photos from pixabay.com



Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

5 medium sweet potatoes	½ cup margarine	1 teaspoon nutmeg
4 medium apples	½ cup brown sugar	¼ cup hot water
	½ teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons honey

- 1. Boil** potatoes in 2 inches of water until almost tender.
- 2. Cool** potatoes, peel and slice. **Peel**, core and slice apples.
- 3. Preheat** the oven to 400°F. **Grease** a casserole dish with a small amount of margarine.
- 4. Layer** potatoes on the bottom of the dish.

- 5. Add** a layer of apple slices.
- 6. Sprinkle** some sugar, salt, and tiny pieces of margarine over the apple layer.
- 7. Repeat** layers of potatoes, apples, sugar, salt and margarine.
- 8. Sprinkle** top with nutmeg.
- 9. Mix** the hot water and

- honey together.
- 10. Pour** over top of casserole.
 - 11. Bake** for 30 minutes.
- Yield:** 6, 1 cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 300 calories, 8 g fat, 59 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 320 mg sodium.
 Source: USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Connection, Recipe finder. June, 2008.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Apples

SEASON: Early summer through December.

NUTRITION FACTS: A medium size apple, about 2 to 2½ inches round, has about 75 calories and provides bulk in the diet, which helps the body digest food. The apple is low in sodium and high in potassium, making it a great natural snack.

SELECTION: Look for firm, crisp, well-colored fruit. Avoid those with shriveled skins, bruises, worm holes, and decayed spots. Always handle apples gently to avoid causing bruises, blemishes, or other defects.

STORAGE: Use those with bruises or skin breaks as soon as possible. Apples that are slightly under-ripe should be stored in a cool place to ripen. Once ripe, apples will keep a week or longer stored in the refrigerator vegetable drawer or in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION: Raw apples will darken when the cut surface is exposed to the air. Protect cut or peeled apples from darkening by mixing with ascorbic

acid such as lemon or orange juice. Only work with about five apples at a time to prevent darkening. Mix 1 teaspoon ascorbic acid with 3 tablespoons of water. Toss gently with apple slices. Apples may be preserved by several methods: freezing, drying, or canning. Please contact your county Extension office for more information.

VARIETIES: More than 2,500 varieties are found in the United States. The following are easily available and popular in Kentucky: Lodi, Red Delicious, Rome, Winesap, Gala, Jonathan, Cortland, and Golden Delicious.

APPLES 1

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

Source: USDA

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



McCracken County Extension Office

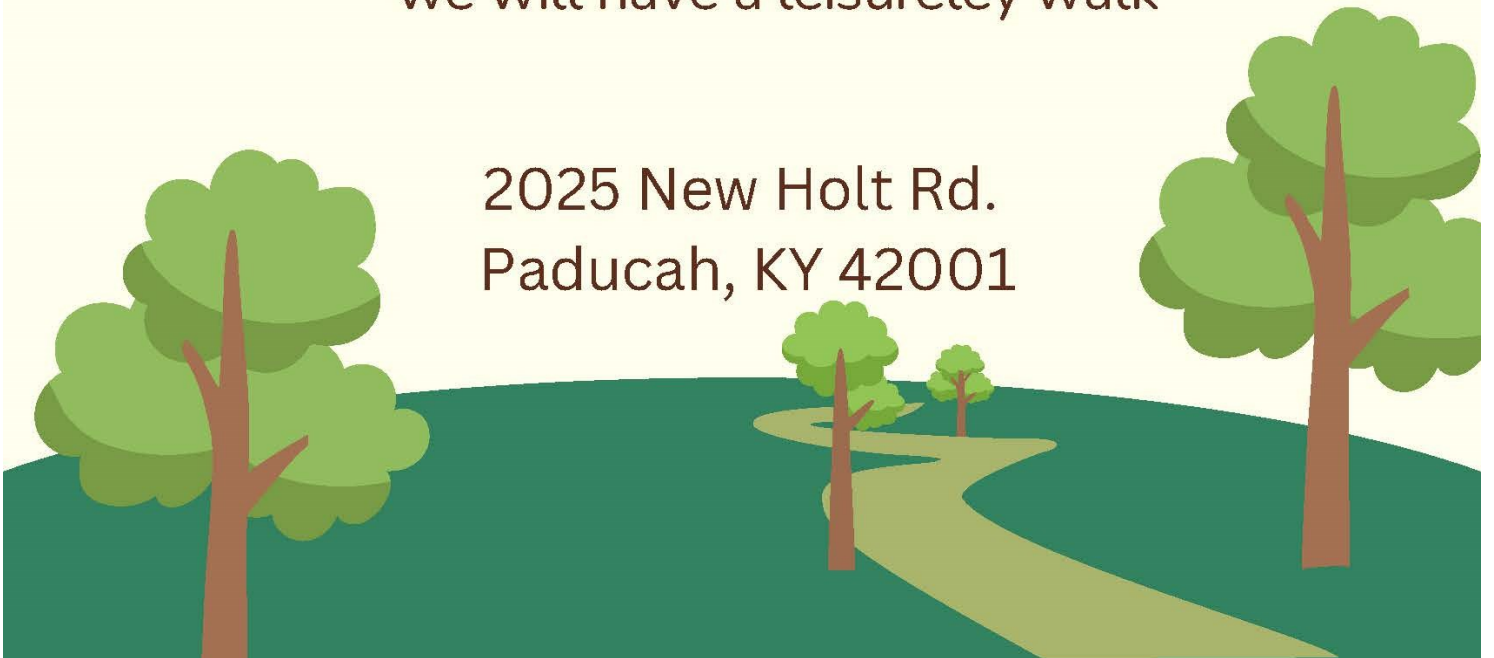


Walking Trail Ribbon Cutting

October 22, 2024
10am

We will have refreshments and tables set up for you to learn more about Extension. Don't forget to register for our giveaway too! After the ribbon cutting, we will have a leisurely walk

2025 New Holt Rd.
Paducah, KY 42001





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

Harvest Festival

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

November 15th, 2024

**McCracken County Cooperative Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY 42001**

A fun, FREE event for families and friends! We will have pumpkin painting and picking, games, taste testing, hands on harvest activities and crafts, a fall photobooth, fundraising opportunities, and much more!

**For more
information call
270-554-9520**



**Free
entry**

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