



Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative
Extension Service

Ohio County
P O Box 66
Hartford KY 42347
270-298-7441
<http://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>

REPLACING OR RESCUING DAMAGED SHRUBS



The extreme cold spell at the end of December 2022 caused severe damage to many shrubs and bushes around Kentucky homes. With plants greening up this spring, you may be wondering what to remove and what to attempt to rescue in your landscape.

The cold is just one part of the puzzle when shrub health declines. Other factors include soil pH, soil volume, too much or too little water, and light availability. Or it could be a combination of weather factors reducing the health of the plant, ie... the 2022 dry fall + the 2022 extreme cold in December + the drought we have been experiencing lately.

Some shrubs may just need a good pruning and time to recover from the winter stress. If you want to try to revive the shrub through pruning, you'll need to trim it down with sturdy pruning shears. Don't remove more than one-third of the plant in a season. If the plant is healthy, it will soon produce new green shoots. If your shrub has more brown branches than green at the core, it may be time for you to remove it.

You can test the viability of the branches by checking for the suppleness of the smaller, young branches. Bend the branch to see if it has flexibility. If it snaps readily – it is dead. If it has some bend and suppleness to the branch, it will most likely continue to live and repair itself.

Well-established shrubs may have large, complex root structures. Make sure to completely remove them before planting something new. Use the transition time to do a soil test so you know what amendments it will need before you bring home new plants.

If you must replace landscape shrubs and plants, Kentucky has more than 1,200 nurseries and retailers selling hundreds of types of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials. You can buy locally without driving very far. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud program allows individuals to locate local retail garden centers that market Kentucky-grown trees and shrubs. Search the garden center database at <https://www.kyagr.com/agbus/products.aspx?group=19&category=112>.

Kentucky also has many qualified nursery growers, retailers, landscapers, and arborists. Kentucky nursery growers and retailers are a very well-trained group of horticulturists. They are familiar with Kentucky soil types, weather, and other factors playing a role in plant performance.

When you visit a local nursery to choose new plants, make sure and read the tags and note the light, water, and soil requirements. Ensure the new plants fit your landscape.

To learn more about transplanting container plants, check out the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension publication HO-114 "Planting Container-Grown Trees and Shrubs in Your Landscape". You can find it online at :

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/HO/HO114/HO114.pdf>

2023 PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY – JUNE 29

The University of Kentucky Extension specialist will host the “2023 Pest Management Field Day” on June 29th at the U.K. Research & Education Farm in Princeton. Even though they do not have their education building rebuilt from the tornado, the research on the farm is back in full swing.



The field day will focus on the results of ongoing research in pest management at the farm. Topics for the day include:

- Palmer Amaranth & Waterhemp Control
- Weed Control in Early Planted Soybeans
- Weed Control in Corn
- Italian Ryegrass Research Update
- Herbicide Resistant Johnsongrass
- Weed Management Utilizing Cover Crops
- Corn Disease Research Update
- Entomology Research Update

The field day will run from 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m., with sign-in starting at 8:00 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended by June 22nd. Registration online is at: https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4PjveAug6mK9XU or by calling UKREC at (270)365-7541 ext.22569.

Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and pesticide applicators will be available.

2023 KATS – SPRAY CLINIC



Each year the Ky Agriculture Training School offers a variety of workshops to aid producers in improving the management of their grain crops. The next session will be a “Spray Clinic” on Thursday, July 13th at the U.K. Research & Education Farm in Princeton. The program will start at 8:30 a.m. and run till noon.

The clinics incorporate classroom, hands-on activities and demonstrations to optimize the areas discussed. Topics to be covered in the Spray Clinic include:

- The importance of spray droplet size for herbicide application
- Weather conditions during spray application
- Tank mixing and adjuvants
- Fungicide spray application efficacy
- Fungicide application with drones
- Kentucky regulations for spray drones

This program is open to anyone – farmers and commercial applicators. Pre-registration is required at: <https://2023KATsSprayClinic.eventbrite.com> There is a \$65 registration fee, with lunch provided at the end of the program.

DON'T LET FLIES TAKE YOUR PROFIT

A buzzing fly is a bother, but a biting fly is a bully. Horn flies meet the latter description for many grazing operations, and these prolific pests can have a significant impact on animal health and performance.

These pests cause cattle stress and discomfort. With the combined annual costs of animal production losses and horn fly control methods can surpass \$780 million across the United States.

- **Biting habits**

Female horn flies lay eggs in manure where larvae hatch and develop into adults. Just one female can lay up to 500 eggs in its lifetime, and several generations of horn flies occur during the summer. Horn fly populations tend to peak in late summer before pupae overwinter in the soil when temperatures taper off in the fall.

Adult horn flies are small — only 3 to 5 millimeters in length — but they prefer to prey on large animals like heifers, steers, cows, and bulls rather than calves. Horn flies typically settle on the backs of cattle and move to the sides of animals' stomachs to avoid direct sunlight. Horn flies bite cattle and feed on their blood, and one insect can bite 20 to 30 times per day. Therefore, individual animals can receive thousands of bites per day if horn fly populations are high.

Cattle that are infested with over 200 horn flies will begin to bunch together in attempt to escape the flies. This behavior negatively influences grazing patterns and feed intake, which ultimately translates to lower feed efficiency, milk production, and weight gain.

- **Control methods**

Using insecticide is the most effective way to limit horn fly populations in pastures, and there are many ways to administer it.

Dust bags dispense dry insecticide when cattle come into contact with them, and back rubbers, or oilers, work in a similar fashion but contain a liquid insecticide. Put these devices on or near fences in areas where animals frequently spend time, such as near water, feed, or mineral blocks.

Ear tags that contain insecticide can also inhibit horn fly infestations by releasing small amounts of the product over time. The insecticide is then dispersed through an animal's hair coat when it moves or grooms itself. Ear tags with the same active ingredient should not be used more than one year. Switching active ingredients reduces the likelihood of horn flies developing resistance to the insecticide being used."

Insecticide sprays are relatively easy to apply yet require multiple treatments over several weeks to keep horn fly populations at bay. Sprays must cover animals completely and penetrate to the skin for applications to be effective. Likewise, pour-on insecticides are available, but control levels for these products vary with weather conditions.

Feed additives and boluses that contain insecticide can be incorporated into mineral blocks or included in mineral tubs. These products will pass through animal manure and kill horn fly larvae growing there, however, they must be consumed consistently and in sufficient amounts for the best results.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 29 – Pest Management Field Day; U.K. Research & Education Farm, Princeton
- July 13 – Ky Agriculture Training School (KATS) – Spray Clinic; U.K. Research & Education Farm, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till noon
- July 25 – U.K. Corn, Soybean, & Tobacco Field Day,; U.K. Research Farm, Princeton
- Aug. 1 – Regional Woodland Owners Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Office; 6:00 p.m.

More information about these programs is available by contacting the Ohio Co. Extension Office at (270)298-7441.