



June 2021

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On-farm water program offers help to KY growers

By Cindy Finneseth, Kentucky Horticulture Council

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Coming up

July 9 - Tools for Minimal-Till Market Farming and Diversified Vegetables: Virtual Field Day, 2 p.m. EDT. Rains and Sun Hilltop Farm, Independence KY, via Zoom. Free, but registration is required. Organic Association of Kentucky field day. For details and to register, [click here](#).

July 29 - In-person field day at Purdue Student Farm. 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. Eastern time. Limit 120 people per group. For details and to register, [click here](#). For details about Purdue's webinar series schedule, see **Page 4**.

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 27 - Exploring Agritourism for Your Farm. Noon-2 p.m. Eastern each day. Free virtual workshop. Center for Profitable Agriculture, Tennessee. For details and to register, visit <https://cpa.tennessee.edu/educational-events-2/>.

Water management is one of your most important production strategies because it is an essential component of photosynthesis and plant development. The crop you are growing, its growth stage, ambient and soil temperatures, and other atmospheric conditions (i.e. wind, relative humidity) influence the amount of water you need for production. Water quality, quantity and timing are key to maximizing your crop potential. Water stress can inhibit germination and stunt plant growth, ultimately limiting your yield.

While water needs vary by crop over the course of the growing season, it is critical you provide the right amount of good quality water at the optimal time to maximize your crop yield and quality. Managing irrigation is important whether you are supplying water through a plasticulture system, overhead sprinkling, or using a sub-irrigation system.

There are many recognized best management practices that help growers deliver and manage on-farm water. One or more may be very well-suited to your operation. Several examples include:

- Irrigation infrastructure (i.e. pipes) to deliver water to growing crops;
- Systems, including microirrigation, to maximize water availability at the root zone and minimize water loss;
- Soil moisture monitoring systems that help growers determine when to irrigate;
- Rainwater harvest systems installed on high tunnels or on-farm structures;
- Catchment systems used to collect and store harvested rainwater;

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Growers: Sign up to be counted in 2022 Census of Agriculture

By David Knopf, Director, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Kentucky Field Office

In the time between each Census of Agriculture NASS works on adding to the list of farm operators. As the 2022 Census approaches, growers who want to be counted can sign up on their own through the NASS website. This would include any farmer, which is anyone selling or would have normally sold \$1,000 or more in agriculture commodities during the year. Producers raising horticulture items are a group that is under-represented. Horticulture crop growers should take advantage of the opportunity to impact

their future by making sure their voices are heard through their data.

To sign up, growers can go to the NASS page “Make Sure I’m Counted” at www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html. They will receive a classification survey later asking for general information about their farm, primarily size of operation and type of commodities produced.

FAQ’s are available at www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/FAQ/2017/index.php. Growers can also contact David Knopf at 502-907-3218, or by email at david.knopf@usda.gov.

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- Use of variable rate nozzles to manage flow and application rates;
- Well installation to collect and use ground water, providing a stable water supply for crop irrigation; and
- Stormwater runoff control strategies to prevent excessive water and damage during heavy rain events.

In addition to maximizing your crop yield, capturing, storing and using available water resources can help you reduce drought vulnerability, reduce dependency on municipal water, manage excess runoff, and improve soil health and moisture availability. The primary challenge is that these systems can be very expensive. The Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP) and the Kentucky Division of Water have developed an on-farm water management program to help local growers plan and fund proven water management practices. The program goals include:

- To promote innovation in on-farm water management,
- To decrease production dependence on municipal water sources,
- To increase on-farm water availability and farm profitability,
- To normalize innovative practices, and
- To improve data on costs/benefits of new practices

There are three project categories with the Small-

Scale Grants (SSG; projects up to \$10,000) and Producer Implementation Projects (PIP; projects up to \$100,000) most appropriate for Kentucky specialty crop growers. At least 50% in matching funds is required and the project must use at least two best management practices, which may include one of those previously identified as well as many other accepted practices.

Program Guidelines are available online: https://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/Documents/project-guidelines_water.pdf as are applications (SSG - https://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/Documents/project-application_water-ssg.docx; PIP - https://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/Documents/project_application-2021.docx). Project applications are accepted year-round and there are quarterly deadlines when projects are reviewed and considered for funding. The remaining application deadlines for 2021 are July 30th and October 29th.

If you have ideas to manage your operation’s water needs, you can always consult with your local county extension agent or your regional Kentucky Division of Water office staff (<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Pages/Regional-Offices.aspx>). Questions about the On-Farm Water Program can be directed to the KOAP Program Manager: Martin Williams (Martin.Williams@ky.gov; 502-782-1763). Technical assistance questions can be directed to Bill Caldwell, Kentucky Division of Water (Bill.Caldwell@ky.gov; 502-782-6906).

July is Cut Flower Month, virtual mini-course continues

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture, and Cindy Finneseth, Executive Director, Kentucky Horticulture Council

Kentucky is home to more than 90 cut flower operations. Each day in July, the Kentucky Horticulture Council will be featuring a Kentucky farmer-florist across KHC's social media channels. This event is the second annual Kentucky-Grown Cut Flower Month co-hosted by the Kentucky Horticulture Council and University of Kentucky horticulture extension agents. Check in each day to learn how Kentucky's farmer-florists make their products available to customers through farmers markets, on-farm sales, pop-up shops, CSA deliveries, and more.

Facebook: [@KYHortCouncil](#)
 Instagram: [@KYHorticulture](#)
 Twitter: [@KYHorticulture](#)

The second virtual Cut Flower Mini-Course session is coming up on Monday, July 19th at 5:30 p.m. Central/6:30 p.m. Eastern time with a virtual farm tour and a session on post-harvesting of cut flowers. Register at https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tduihpjliGtTAED6JYvXUVyusW07uSA_z or contact Alexis Sheffield (Boyle County Horticulture Agent) at alexis.amorese@uky.edu or Kristin Hildabrand (Warren County Horticulture Agent) at kristin.goodin@uky.edu for more information. See the table for a list of upcoming topics to save the dates.

The Cut Flower Mini-Course is completely free and open to all. As the meeting will be hosted using Zoom, access to a computer with broadband internet capability will be necessary to attend.

Pre-registration is critical as new production re-

Virtual CUT FLOWER

Farm Tour & Post Harvesting

Monday
July 19th
 5:30 PM CDT/
 6:30 PM EDT

*Register for this program by using this QR Code.
 Contact Alexis Sheffield at alexis.amorese@uky.edu
 or Kristin Hildabrand at kristin.goodin@uky.edu for more information.

Date	Topic
July 19 th	Virtual Farm Tour and Post-Harvest
September 20 th	Growing in Structures
January 24 th (2022)	Winter Integrated Pest Management

sources, including short introductory videos will be made available ahead of meetings to registered individuals, offering a chance for attendees to learn more detailed information or bring up questions during meetings. Additionally, the development of future resources will be generated based on feedback from attendees during earlier meetings, making the classes responsive to grower input.

The Center for Crop Diversification has developed a one-stop online location to access publications and other resources for cut flower production: uky.edu/ccd/cut-flower.

This page will be updated continuously as additional resources are currently in development. Also, all mini-course sessions will be recorded and posted to this site if you miss them.

July: Cooler than average start, above average rain throughout

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

While weather reports of extreme heat in the Pacific Northwest and persistent drought in the West come in, the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a cooler than average start to July for us in the commonwealth and across much of the southeastern U.S. In the latter half of July, there is an equal chance for above average temperatures and below average temperatures for Kentucky.

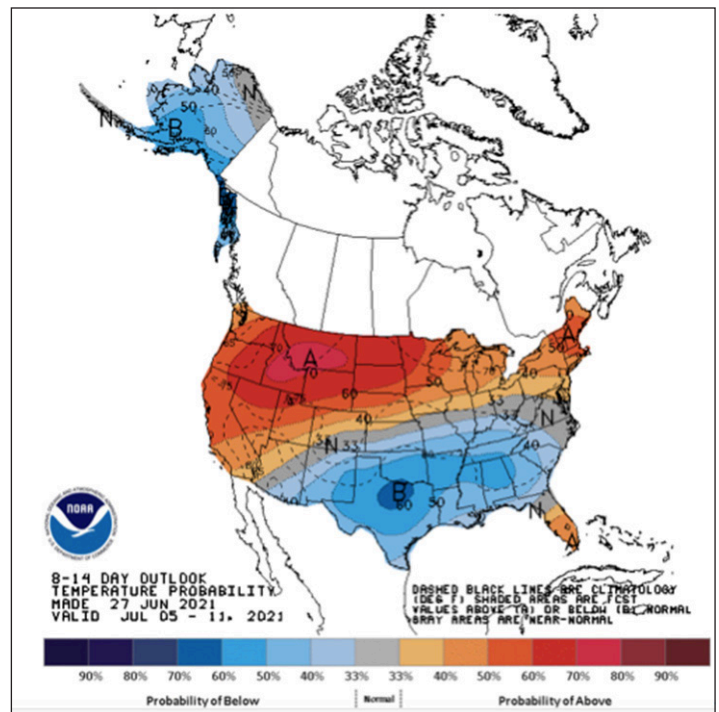
The picture for precipitation is clearer: above average rates of precipitation for July. In an average year, July tends to be one of our wettest months, creating conditions for more flooding. This current, long-range forecast for July, August and September is calling for above average precipitation as well.

Purdue's Small Farm Webinars will feature variety of topics

From the Purdue University Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture website

Purdue University is offering a Small Farm Webinar Series featuring diverse topics from August 2nd through the 13th. Six free, 90-minute webinars will cover such topics as Food Safety Overviews and Sanitation Standard Operation Procedures; Main Areas of Focus in Social Media Marketing; Linking Markets to Production; Making Cover Crop Biomass Work for You; Control of Bacterial Spot of Tomato Using Alternative Products; Small-scale Onion Production and Postharvest Handling Tips; Field Production of Specialty Melons; High Tunnel Specialty Melon Production; Pathogens of Hemp; Aphid and Mite Management in High Tunnel Strawberries; and much more. Each webinar will include three presentations.

Webinars are scheduled for August 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 11th and 13th from noon to 1:30 p.m. EDT. To see the complete schedule, visit https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2021/05/SF2021_Webinar_Schedule.pdf. Registration is available at <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/>



Short survey designed to assess markets for small fruit in Kentucky

My name is Grace Jenkins and I am an intern working with Brett Wolff and Dr. Tim Woods of the UK Center for Crop Diversification, and Dr. Cindy Finneseth of the Kentucky Horticulture Council. My internship is focused on assessing the current market for small fruits in Kentucky. Small fruits include crops like blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. We are asking farmers market managers and leaders to complete a short survey about small fruit at their markets. With this survey we hope to get a sense of the current direct market for small fruit products (both fresh and value-added), to see what markets are expecting for this season, and some other general trends. The survey should take less than five minutes. The survey is intended primarily for market managers, but anyone involved with direct marketing small fruits is welcome to complete it. The survey is available at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bBMpxTt0YcBl7bo.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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CCD resources update

High tunnel cover crops, edible flowers among new and updated publications

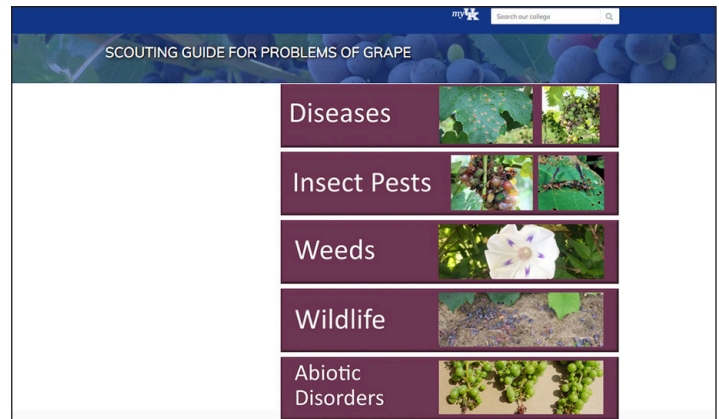
The Center for Crop Diversification (CCD) has published two new profiles, [Cool-Season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast \(CCD-SP-18\)](#), and [Warm-Season Cover Crops for High Tunnels in the Southeast \(CCD-SP-19\)](#). These are among a series of publications being developed by the University of Kentucky, the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee as part of the USDA SSARE Project 'Cover Crops Under Cover: Evaluating Costs, Benefits, and Ecosystem Services of Cover Crops in Year-Round High Tunnel Production Systems' ([SSARE LS-16-272](#)). The CCD's crop profile on [Edible Flowers \(CCD-CP-69\)](#) was recently updated. Look for these publications, and many additional resources on the CCD website at www.uky.edu/ccd.



Grape Scout Website available

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist From Kentucky Pest News

The publication "[An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of Grape in Kentucky](#)" was first introduced in 2019 as an online/paper version. In order to improve access to this important scouting guide, a mobile website was developed. The Grape Scout Website is now available for grower, agent and homeowner use. The website can be easily accessed from any phone, tablet, iPad or computer. This website provides users with the information available in the scouting guide publication. The home page (at right) allows visitors to select a



topic. Next, users can select from a menu of various diseases or pests to obtain more information and view images. Access the Grape Scout Website at <https://grapescout.ca.uky.edu/>.

Thanks for reading!

If you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter, or you're not subscribed yet yourself, visit www.uky.edu/ccd/newsletter and click "Subscribe Now." Or call Brett Wolff at 859-218-4384, or Christy Cassady at 859-257-1477. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccduky/>

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