



June 2023

Brett Wolff, Editor
Christy Cassady, Editor/Designer

July is KY Grown Cut Flower Month

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Coming up

July 6 - Keeping our Balance: Diversified Farming with Steep Hills and Off-Farm Jobs, Hallow Springs Farm, Mt. Vernon, KY. 9 a.m.-noon Eastern Time. Organic Association of Kentucky Field Day. For more information and to register, go to <https://oak.memberclicks.net/field-days>.

July 11 - Crop Mob at the Millers' Farm. For details, see **Page 3**.

July 25 - Restoring the Family Farm with Organic Production, Coleman Crest Farm, Lexington, KY. 9 a.m.-noon Eastern Time. Organic Association of Kentucky field day. For details and to register, visit <https://oak.memberclicks.net/field-days>.

*By Cindy Finneseth, Bethany Cox, and Dakota Moore,
Kentucky Horticulture Council*

Kentucky cut flower growers are being celebrated this July in a month-long promotional event organized by the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Each day, cut flower growers across the state will be featured in our [Kentucky Grown Cut Flower Promotion Facebook Group](#) and other social media platforms. The promotion includes cut flower farm bios, farmer and customer resources, featured [webinar](#) and [conference recordings](#), and floral design videos filmed during cut flower farm visits (you can find last year's visit videos in [KHC's YouTube Playlist](#)). This promotion allows farmers to introduce their farm to new audiences highlighting where customers can find locally grown flowers on farms, at farmers markets, pop-up shops, through community supported agriculture subscriptions, and other outlets.

"July is a great month to shine the spotlight on Kentucky's cut flower industry! Growers throughout the state are very creative in how they offer their bright magnificent blooms to consumers," said Kristin Hildabrand, Warren County horticulture extension agent. "Customers can find Kentucky blooms at local farmers markets, self-serve flower stands, pop up locations, and right off the farm for u-pick operations or during special field to vase arrangement workshops. If you have a special occasion coming up in the future, fresh locally grown cut flowers can fit that bill! Utilize locally grown flowers to enhance weddings, individual or family photography sessions,

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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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graduations, back to school bouquets, anniversaries, and other social gatherings. You simply can't go wrong with fresh locally grown flowers!"

Most – about 80 percent – of cut flowers are imported for U.S. markets, yet Kentucky farm conditions are well-suited for high-quality commercial production. The commonwealth is home to well over 130 commercial cut flower operations. The number of farmer-florists continues to increase each year.

"Cut flower production can be profitable for small-to large-scale Kentucky farms," said Cindy Finneseth, KHC executive director. "Consumer demand for locally grown products is high in both urban and rural areas. Our flower farms are growing a range of high quality products to meet that demand."

To help customers find Kentucky operations, the Kentucky Horticulture Council and UK horticulture agents have partnered with UK's Center for Crop Diversification to produce an interactive, online [Kentucky Commercial Cut Flower Grower Directory](#). New farms are being added frequently and there may be a flower farm close to you.

"In the three short years July has been recognized as Kentucky Cut Flower Month, we have seen incredible growth and support for locally grown flowers," said Alexis Sheffield, Boyle County horticulture extension agent. "Growing cuts has been a great way to introduce new, young people to farming and we have seen established farms begin to diversify their operations for both increased profits and ecosystem benefits. There are a growing number of florists who have started purchasing local blooms and cooperatives formed to support both the farmers and the florists. I am eager to see what another three years will do for this growing industry!"

To follow the cut flower month promotional activities, visit Facebook ([Kentucky Grown Cut Flower Promotion Facebook Group](#)), Instagram ([@KY-Horticulture](#)) or Twitter ([@KYHorticulture](#)).

For more information about the monthly activities, please contact: Dakota Moore (dakota@kyhortcouncil.org) or Bethany Cox (bethany@kyhortcouncil.org)



July is KY Grown Cut Flower Month



Join the KY Grown Cut Flower Promotion Group on Facebook to find & learn about local growers near you!

PRESENTED BY:    



2023 KY Fruit and Vegetable Conference Cut Flower Short Course videos now available

Recordings of the presentations at the 2023 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference Cut Flower Short Course are now available to the public. You can access all the videos and numerous other cut flower resources on the Center for Crop Diversification website at <https://www.uky.edu/ccd/cut-flowers>. Links to individual videos are:

- [Designing an Effective On farm Workshop with Melanie Stock](#)
- [Evaluating Profitability of Different Sales Channels with Savannah Columbia](#)
- [What We Learned from Florist Surveys with Melanie Stock](#)
- [Record Keeping Is the crop worth the price with Melanie Stock](#)
- [The Kentucky Cut Flower Calendar with Tara Watkins](#)
- [Cut Flower Dos & Don'ts with Melanie Stock](#)
- [My Top 5 Cut Flowers with Michelle Wheeler](#)
- [Drying Cut Flowers to Extend Your Season with Krynne Knepfel](#)
- [The Kentucky Flower Market with Kayla Carey & Sarah Torgerson](#)

CCD resources update

New publications include regional elderberry profile, IPM for Ag Service Providers fact sheet

The Center for Crop Diversification recently released two new publications, [Commercial Production of Elderberry](#) and [Integrated Pest Management for Agricultural Service Providers](#). The elderberry profile is the result of a collaboration with Tennessee's [Center for Profitable Agriculture](#) and [West Virginia University](#). The IPM fact sheet is among the resources developed as part of a Southern SARE grant on [Sustainable Production Practices](#).



GROW APPALACHIA
BEREA COLLEGE

Beginning Farmer Education Series

Crop Mob at the Millers' Farm

Learn about irrigation, trellising, and weed management in a small fruit system




Location: Millers' Farm in Stanford, KY
Date & Time: Tuesday, July 11th @ 10 AM - 3 PM
Lunch will be provided / Limited spaces available

REGISTER NOW


bit.ly/millercropmob



Mountain Association offers variety of support to Eastern KY growers

By Ariel Fugate, Communications Manager, Mountain Association

The Mountain Association, a nonprofit serving the 54 Appalachian Kentucky counties, has energy savings experts on staff that can visit your farm or facilities to provide free technical assistance on where you could save money on your energy bills. They can help you apply for grants to support your energy projects, like those available through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund on-farm energy grant program and USDA Rural Energy for America Program. If you are interested in exploring solar, they can help you review bids to make sure you are getting the best deal for your investment.

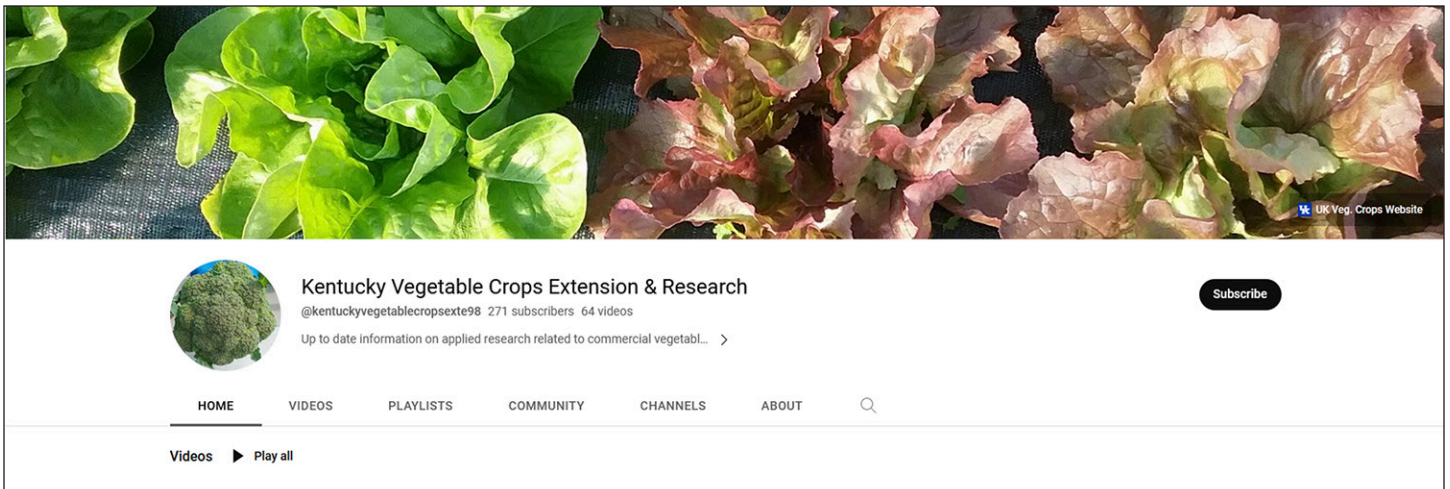


Photo by Jones Aerial Photography
Southdown Farm in Letcher County added solar in 2019, working with Mountain Association to receive nearly \$20,000 in grant funding. The system allows them to save approximately \$2,600 per year.

alties and flexible collateral and payment options.

If you were impacted by the July 2022 flooding, they currently have 0 percent interest loans for eligible businesses and organizations. These loans are 0 percent interest the first 12 months and then 3.75 percent fixed for 10 years with no prepayment pen-

The Mountain Association also offers a variety of free or low-cost services like support from business consultants in areas like website development, social media marketing, strategic planning, and more. More information is available at mtas-association.org.



High Tunnel Basics webinar series recordings available

By Rachel Rudolph, UK Extension Vegetable Specialist

In March, the University of Kentucky Vegetable Extension team hosted a High Tunnel Basics webinar series. Topics included structure design, site selection, production basics, and pest, weed, and disease management. If you missed those live webinars, the recordings can be viewed on their YouTube channel. Here is the link to the playlist with all of the recorded presentations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=albnAhAUfUQ&list=PLQEQoZRMbybIHAPvsLDmHGIN9YeJgEGj-&pp=iAQB>.

To stay up to date on any new videos, subscribe to the Kentucky Vegetable Crops Extension and Research YouTube channel.: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6JyU2Fdo3Yvml4y7LF0M4A>.

Other resources from the UK Vegetable Extension Team

The UK Vegetable Extension team provides numerous resources for commercial vegetable growers regarding production and pest management. The following list details the resources provided by University of Kentucky specialists in horticulture, entomology, and plant pathology.

Commercial Growers Vegetable Alert Listserv

Commercial vegetable growers can subscribe to the Veggie Alert Listserv. This e-mail distribution list allows growers to receive the most up-to-date information and notifications from University of Kentucky specialists. To subscribe to the listserv, go to this [link](#), and enter your name, county, and e-mail address.

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Growers should be aware of these upcoming USDA deadlines

From the Somerset USDA Service Center

The deadline to apply for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP2) Phase Two and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) has been extended to July 14th. [Learn more about ERP](#) or [PARP](#).

The deadline for crop acreage reporting is July 15th, but will be observed on Monday, July 17th, as the 15th falls on a weekend.

Please file your acreage reports as soon as you are finished planting.

Crop acreage reporting is an important part of determining your eligibility for many USDA assistance programs. A crop acreage report documents all crops and the intended uses. Crop acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county. Contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) for details. [Learn More About Crop Acreage Reporting](#).



Figure 1: Veggie Scout website home page. (Screen shot: Kim Leonberger, UK)

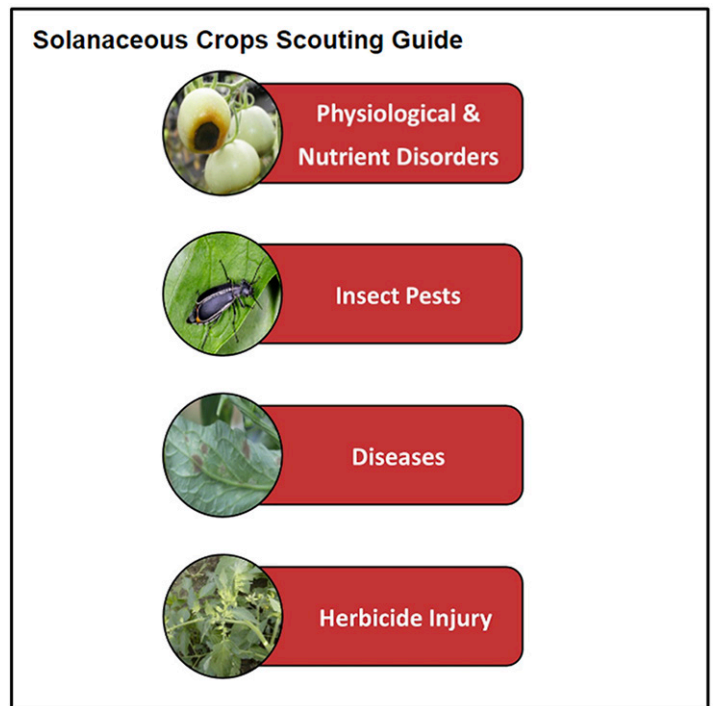


Figure 2: Visitors select a problem area within each crop/structure group. (Screen shot: Kim Leonberger, UK)

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Veggie Scout Website

The IPM Scouting Guide publications for vegetable crops are valuable resources for growers. This information can also be easily accessed through the Veggie Scout Website (<https://veggiescout.ca.uky.edu/>). Be sure to bookmark this website for easy access in the future. This website provides access to the information found on the Solanaceous crops, Cucurbit crops, and High Tunnel and Greenhouse Scouting Guides. Additional scouting guides will be added in the future.

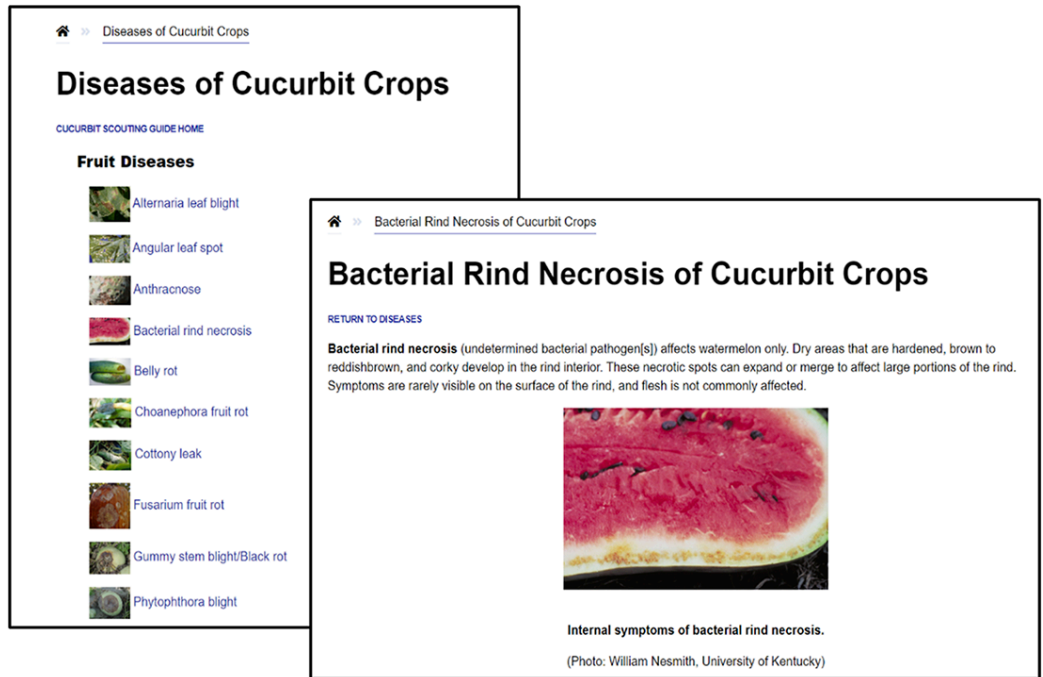


Figure 3: Users can select a specific disease or pest to obtain more information. (Screen shot: Kim Leonberger, UK)

The Veggie Scout Website is available for grower, agent, and homeowner use and can be accessed from any phone, tablet, iPad, or computer. The website provides users the opportunity to first select a scouting guide (Figure 1). Next, the home

page for each crop / structure (Figure 2) allows visitors to select a problem area. Finally, users select from a menu of various diseases, pests, or problems to obtain more information and view images (Figure 3).

Using green lacewings in the war against aphids

By Tara Watkins, UK Extension Associate for Commercial Ornamentals

Beneficial insects are an important part of a good integrated pest management (IPM) program, yet many beneficials are overlooked because many people do not recognize them, nor understand their benefits.

One important, but under-valued beneficial insect is lacewings. This insect is a talented and skilled predator (in its larval form– Figure 1) of several common pests including aphids, scale insects, whiteflies, mites, and other soft bodied insects. They are also loved because they very rarely bite or sting humans. You can find lacewings in the spring, summer, and fall.

Female green lacewings purposefully choose to lay their eggs near an aphid colony. Each egg is laid on top of a hair-like stalk, which helps prevent the newly hatched larvae from eating their siblings. Immediately after hatching, these larvae begin feeding on pests in staggering numbers. The larvae are brown and white and resemble small caterpillars but move more quickly and have longer legs and mouthparts.



Figure 1. Lacewing larvae have large sickle-shaped mandibles to feed on their prey. (Photo courtesy of UK Entomology).

If you would like to use green lacewings as a natural pest control method, you can purchase eggs and larvae from a few biological control supply houses in North America. These have been used with some success by many Kentucky growers when released in a space that has a dependable food supply for them and/or some sort of a natural or physical boundary (i.e., a greenhouse or a dense nursery block). When the lacewing larvae hatch, they are wingless and generally remain in a close by area.

If you have additional thoughts or questions about the use of lacewings in your IPM program, please reach out to tara.watkins@uky.edu.

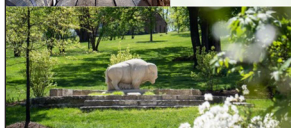
2023 KNLA Green Industry Summer Conference

August 23, 2023
at Buffalo Trace Distillery

**Keynote Speaker ~ New & Returning Vendors ~
Engaging Presentations with CEU Hours ~ Buffalo Trace
Arboretum Talk & Walk Tour ~ Cash Raffle**



Complimentary distillery tour, bourbon tasting & private gift shop access to follow event if registered by June 30, 2023

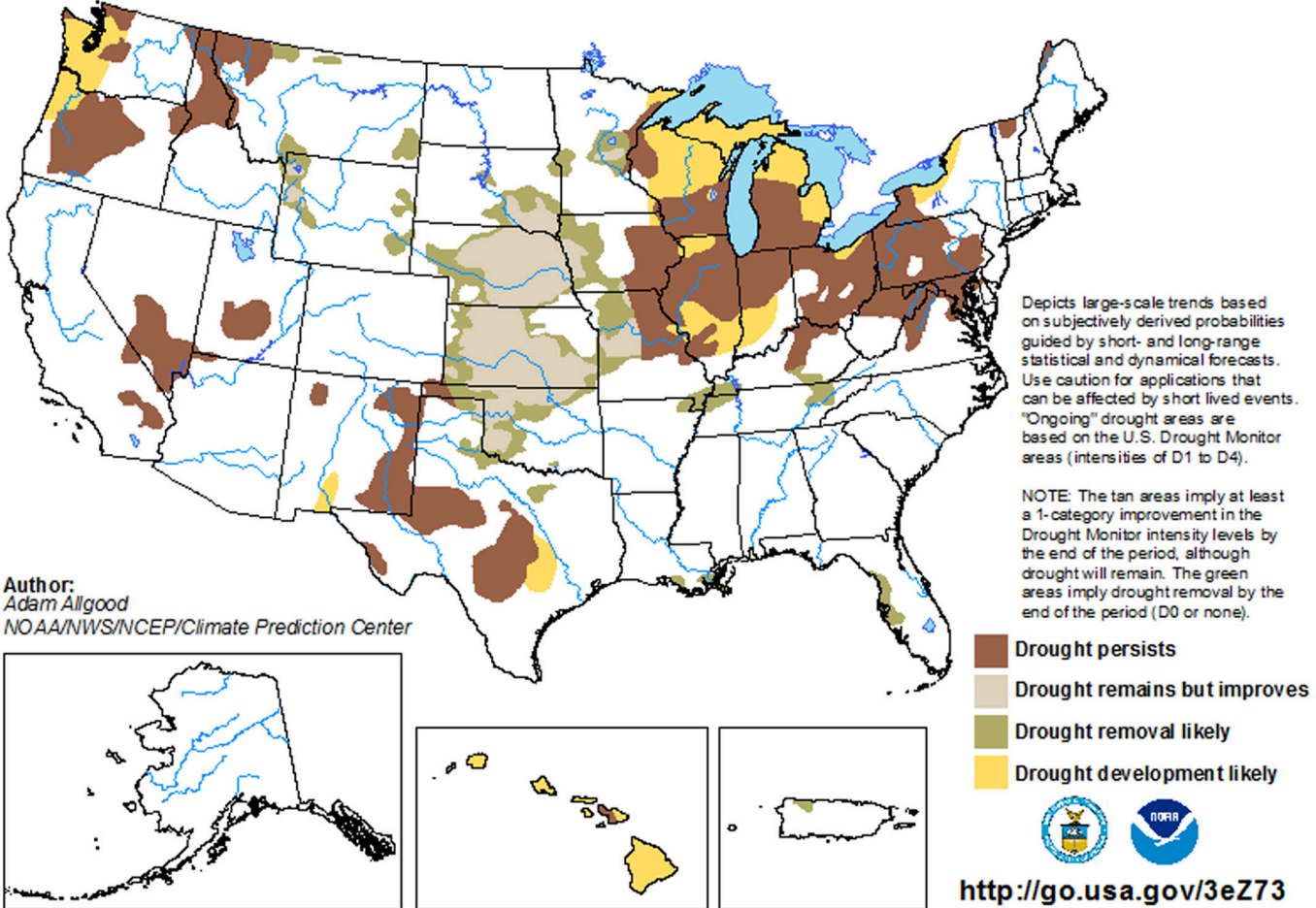


Register online at
www.KNLA.org

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 15 - September 30, 2023
Released June 15



Look for warmer and wetter than average start to July

By Joshua Knight, Senior Extension Associate, Horticulture

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an above average probability for warmer than average temperatures in the first weeks of July across much of the eastern U.S., including Kentucky. That said, there appears to be a weather pattern around southern Appalachia, which may bring down temperatures closer to normal for us.

An above average chance of increased precipitation is predicted for the first week of July, possibly into the second week. However, as normal rates of precipitation are typically reduced in July compared to June we may yet still see drier conditions for the month overall. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows abnormal and ever moderate, but short-term drought conditions for parts of the central region with an outlook showing this

will persist a bit longer. Dry conditions can bring challenges with seeding and germination for fall gardening, necessitating increased irrigation.

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 859-257-5635. Stay up to date with the Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ccduky/>

Christy Cassady

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist

