



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
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Coming up

March 30-April 1 - Intro to Veggie Production Short Course. 6 to 8 p.m. EDT each night. For new or aspiring growers. Free. Details available [here](#). Questions? Email the Kentucky Horticulture Council at info@kyhortcouncil.org.

April 1 - 1 to 2:30 p.m. EDT. MarketReady Insurance & Communication Advanced Topic Webinar. Participants must have attended a MarketReady Core Producer Training. To register, [click here](#).

April 8 - 2 p.m. EDT. Seed, Plant, Package - Sell! Specialty Crops from Production to Product: Virtual Field Day. Free. Salad Days Farm, Versailles, KY. Registration required. To register, go to <https://www.oak-ky.org/farmer-field-days-2021>.

These resources will help you get started with spring planting

By Christy Cassady, Center for Crop Diversification

Whether you are planning a garden or getting ready for commercial production of vegetables in 2021, these resources from the University of Kentucky will help you get off to a good start.

UK publications ID-36 and ID-128 offer valuable information for commercial growers and home gardeners. This includes tables that show the earliest and latest recommended planting dates for a variety of vegetables in Kentucky (see Page 2). ID-36 ([Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2020-21](#)) offers information about marketing options, irrigation, insect, weed and disease management, general production information, and detailed production information on various vegetable crops. ID-128 ([Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky](#), which was revised this month), offers information about planning your garden, preparing the soil, diseases, insects, weeds, mulching, composting, storing vegetables, and more. It includes production information about 36 crops, from asparagus to watermelon.

In addition to ID-36 and ID-128, UK also has ID-133, [Vegetable Cultivars for Kentucky Gardens - 2013](#). This publication lists recommended varieties for numerous vegetable crops, their days to maturity, and their resistance or tolerance to disease. Meanwhile, most of the varieties listed in ID-36 were chosen based on extensive variety trials at UK and on Kentucky farms. These varieties have shown high yields

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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and uniform quality, as well as some level of disease resistance.

Are you new to gardening? Other resources include a Growing Your Own series for beginners. These publications include [Preparing Your Garden \(NEP-219\)](#), as well as publications on specific crops, including tomatoes, peppers, green beans, collards, kale, radishes and more. Some of these publications are also available in Spanish. The publications in the Growing Your Own series can be accessed from http://dept.ca.uky.edu/agc/pub_prefix.asp?series=NEP.

Commercial growers and those who are planning to start selling their crops can access the Center for Crop Diversification’s numerous crop and marketing resources from the CCD website (www.uky.edu/ccd/).

The CCD’s [Kentucky farmers market price reports](#) will be starting again in the latter part of April. Price reports from Kentucky produce auctions are already available at www.uky.edu/ccd/pricereports/KYPA. Looking for price trends from recent years? Check out the CCD’s [3-Year Average Weekly Prices at Kentucky Farmers Markets: 2016-2018](#), and [Three-Year Average Prices & Quantities at Kentucky Produce Auctions: 2017-2019](#).

Table 15. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 6.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.

The table above is reprinted from ID-128, Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky.

Are you a commercial grower looking to diversify, but you aren’t sure which crops to grow? Check out the CCD’s [Hort BizQuiz](#) to help narrow your options based on your access to land, labor and capital.

Happy growing!

MarketReady advanced topic courses scheduled for April

From the MarketReady Producer Training Program

The MarketReady Producer Training program is offering five advanced topic trainings on Thursday afternoons in April. These trainings cover quality assurance, marketing, insurance & communication, logistics & distribution, and packaging & labeling. This program is focused on selling to schools, restaurants, and grocers/wholesalers/retailers. These trainings are for producers and individuals who have previously participated in our MarketReady Producer Training (in March, 2021, or in previous years), as they expand on ideas covered in the “core” training. If you have not completed the initial MarketReady Producer Training, please do so before diving into our advanced topics. There will be additional trainings later this year.

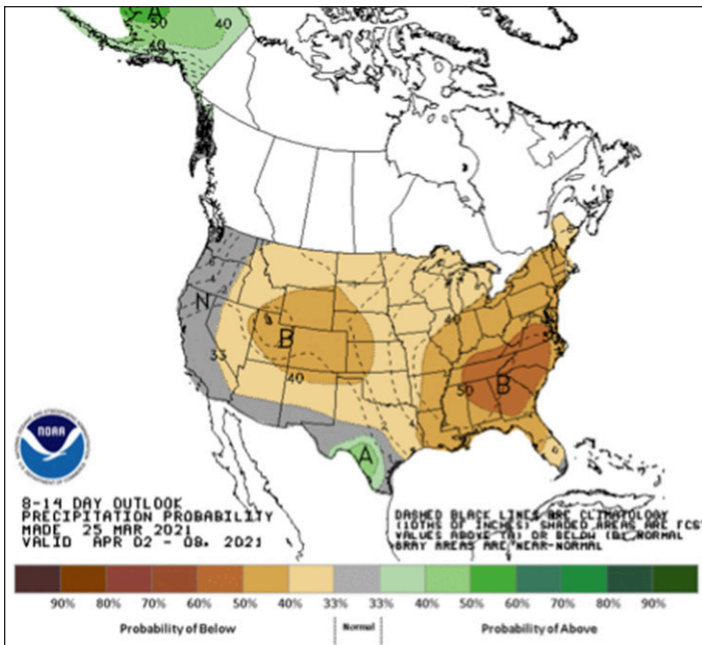
You will need to register for each advanced training individually at uky.edu/MarketReady/upcoming-events. Please note: You do not have to register for *every* training – select the topics that are of interest to you. The trainings are offered via Zoom and will be at 1 p.m. EDT. Our first training is April 1st – so be sure to register! Space is limited, with each training capped at 30 participants. Sessions will not be recorded, so please register only if you can attend at the specified time. Please contact savannah.columbia@uky.edu with any questions.

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/>

Christy Cassady

Christy Cassady, Extension Specialist



Drier than average start to April, warmer than average overall

By Joshua Knight, Sr. Extension Associate, Horticulture

The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting the first week of April to be drier than average. For reference, the Commonwealth has averaged 3.5-4 inches of rainfall in the month of April from 1980-2010. After the first week concludes, the predictions show an equal chance of drier or wetter than average conditions for the rest of April, with the three-month forecast for April, May and June calling for wetter than average conditions.

Aside from the first few days of April being colder than average, the rest of the month is expected to be warmer than average overall, with that trend continuing in the three-month forecast for spring.

Attention Kentucky farmers market managers, vendors and attendees!

Are you interested in helping the UK Center for Crop Diversification test a mobile phone-friendly price reporting tool? We are looking for volunteers who are committed to helping us test a recently developed tool to submit price reports from your local farmers market. It works for Android, iPhone, cell phones, and tablets, and does not require the installation of any special software.

If interested, contact Joshua Knight (joshua.knight@uky.edu) to request information about the Farmers Market Price Reporting Tool soon!

