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*Erika Wood*

# Hopkins County Horticulture Newsletter Fall 2021

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## Pansies

Are you looking to add some color to your fall landscape or container garden? Pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*) are a lovely choice for splashes of color in an otherwise dying and dreary landscape.

Pansies are considered an annual, although they are capable of overwintering here in Kentucky. Pansies prefer cooler temperatures, and so they are going to thrive in the fall and spring as opposed to the hot summer months. They also prefer full sun, so be sure to plant them in a bright location of your garden. If you plan on planting pansies this fall, then there is a good possibility of seeing these plants survive and bloom in the spring for continued color display. Pansies are pretty tough plants. Their root systems can survive the winter, and typically flowers are not damaged until temperatures go below 15°F. Leaves will not show damage until temperatures drop below 10°F.

If you are hoping to successfully overwinter your pansies, then make sure you plant them by mid-October so their root system can become established. If everything goes well and the winter isn't too harsh, then you should see your pansies begin flowering again in March and April.



There are many different varieties of pansies. The bloom sizes can be small, medium, and large. Typically pansies with small flowers will produce many blooms whereas the

pansies with large flowers produce fewer blooms. Pansy flowers come in a wide range of colors from purples and blues to reds and yellows. Some flowers are even bi-colored or have a blend of colors.

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Master Gardeners, Pennyroyal

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Disabilities  
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## Chrysanthemum Care

Chrysanthemums (*Dendranthema x grandiflora*) otherwise known as “mums” for short, are a favorite for the fall season because of their spectacular color display. These plants bloom in a wide range of colors including: red, orange, yellow, purple, pink, and white. The flowers vary greatly and are classified based on their shape and petal arrangement.

Mums are considered an herbaceous perennial but are often treated as a fall flowering annual. If you have chrysanthemums already established in a landscape or plan to keep them as a perennial, then here are some useful tips on Chrysanthemum care and maintenance:

- Plant mums in the spring (typically mid-May) after the danger of frost has passed. Mums planted in the fall will not always overwinter well. If you do plan to plant mums in the fall, then be sure to provide adequate mulch to help stabilize soil temperatures and protect the plant roots during the winter months.



- Chrysanthemums are heavy nutrient feeders and thus need to be fertilized in the spring and summer. Applications of 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 can be applied in the spring around mid-May and then again in mid-July.



- In order to prevent early blooming and keep plants well-shaped and bushy, pinching is required. Pinching involves removing the tips of plant branches. Chrysanthemums in the landscape should be pinched twice during the growing season. The first pinch should occur around June 4th and the second around July 4th. Pinching the plants twice will allow for blooming to begin in mid to late August. If plants are deadheaded, then they should continue to bloom throughout the fall.

# Goldenrod vs. Ragweed

Fall is the season for allergies, and people will blame whatever plant is in bloom for their misfortune. But what plant is truly the culprit and what plant is actually innocent? For years, people have been putting the blame on goldenrod for their allergy woes when the real cause has actually been ragweed. Both plants bloom in the fall and produce yellow flowers, but only ragweed is the main cause for hay fever. Unlike goldenrod pollen which is heavy and sticky, ragweed pollen is light and easily carried by the wind. This type of pollen can aggravate people and result in allergies.

So how do you tell the difference between the two plants if they both bloom around the same time? Here's how:

- Goldenrod plants are perennials, whereas ragweed plants are considered annuals. Even though ragweed plants are killed by the cold, their seeds are still viable and will sprout in the spring.
- Goldenrods usually are single-stemmed but may have some branching at the top of the plant. Ragweed plants are multi-branched with purplish, hairy stems and dissected leaves.



Goldenrod



Ragweed



Ragweed

Goldenrod



# Fall Armyworm ..... and Lawns

2021 has featured more fall armyworms than we are used to. Typically seen as an ag pest, this year they have been snacking on lawns as well. What should our next steps be?

Yellow "Y"  
on head

3 pale  
stripes  
running  
down back

4 dots in a square  
on the butt



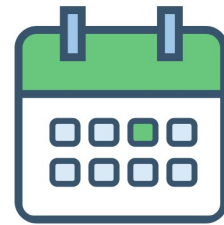
## You can still treat

Fall armyworms can still be managed (not 100% controlled) with insecticides like bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, or carbaryl.



## Next step, pupation

These caterpillars will soon pupate and no longer be creating damage. Pupae do not require control and are in the soil.



## This could happen again soon

Fall armyworms are killed by the first frost in Kentucky. Another round of caterpillars could occur in the next 30 days or so.



## Watch for egg masses to reappear

Egg masses may be on buildings, outdoor decor, plants, and many other surfaces



## Treat the next round of caterpillars early

5-7 days after seeing eggs, treat for small caterpillars. Bt and spinosad are organic options, pyrethroids are also an option.



## Prepare to renovate

Cool season turfgrasses (like fescue) likely won't recover. Plan to re-seed or re-sod.

# Plate it up! Recipes for Fall



## Herbed Pasta with Roasted Cherry Tomatoes

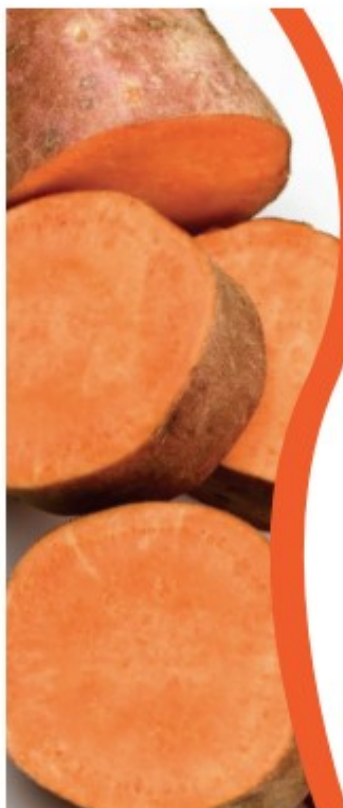
<b>½ pound</b> whole wheat pasta	<b>4</b> chopped garlic cloves	<b>2 teaspoons</b> dried oregano
<b>3 tablespoons</b> olive oil	<b>1 medium</b> chopped red bell pepper	<b>1 tablespoon</b> chopped fresh parsley
<b>1 pint</b> cherry tomatoes	<b>6 tablespoons</b> chopped fresh basil	<b>½ teaspoon</b> salt
<b>1 medium</b> chopped onion	<b>1 teaspoon</b> dried thyme	<b>1 teaspoon</b> red pepper flakes (optional)

- Cook** pasta according to package.
- Preheat** oven to 400°F.
- Score** each of the cherry tomatoes with a small X. **Toss** the tomatoes with 1 tablespoon olive oil and **roast** in oven for 10-15 minutes, until they burst.
- Sauté** onion in 2 tablespoons olive oil for 5 minutes.
- Add** garlic and red bell peppers. **Sauté** for an additional 5 minutes.
- Add** fresh and dried herbs, salt and oven roasted cherry tomatoes.
- Toss** with drained pasta.

**Yield:** 6, 1 cup servings.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 230 calories, 8 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 5 g sugar, 6 g protein.

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



## Sweet Potato Crisp

<b>3 large</b> fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender.	<b>1 teaspoon</b> vanilla	<b>½ cup</b> all-purpose flour
<b>8 ounces</b> reduced fat cream cheese, softened	<b>1 tablespoon</b> ground cinnamon	<b>¾ cup</b> quick cooking oats
<b>1 cup</b> brown sugar, divided	<b>2 medium</b> apples, chopped	<b>3 tablespoons</b> butter
		<b>¼ cup</b> chopped pecans

- Preheat** oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.
- Mash** sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ¾ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.
- Spread** sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.
- Top** sweet potatoes with chopped apples.
- In a small bowl, **combine** flour, oats, and ½ cup brown sugar. **Cut** in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. **Stir** in pecans.
- Sprinkle** mixture over apples.
- Bake** uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

**Yield:** 16, ¾ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.

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# HOPKINS COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

Open May to October



## MAHR PARK

55 Mahr Park Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431

Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

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## BAPTIST HEALTH

900 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431

Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



## KENTUCKY BROCCOLI

**TIP #1:**

Look for tender, young, dark-green stalks with tightly-closed buds.

**TIP #2:**

Store unwashed broccoli in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator for 3 to 5 days.

**TIP #3:**

Wash broccoli before using. Cut away tough, older part of the stalk.

**TIP #4:**

Broccoli may be served raw with dip or in salads. It may also be steamed, boiled, microwaved, stir-fried, or roasted.

**In Season October - November**

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