

AG NEWS

September 2020

Interested in Becoming a Master Gardener?

Howard County is excited to finally be starting its very own Master Gardener Organization. What are you agreeing to when you become a Master Gardener? Enrolling in the MG basic training, completing 40 hours of instruction and paying back 40 hours of volunteer service and accruing 20 additional education hours in a 12 month period. In addition, for each year you wish to remain active, you must accrue 20 new educational hours and pay back 20 hours of volunteer service.



Here are some other expectations for all Master Gardeners:

- Acknowledge and support that UA Cooperative Extension programs actively seek members/participants from every race, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic group.
- Provide a positive educational environment which will enable other volunteers and program

participants to grow, learn, and develop friendships through Extension programs.

- Be supportive of all Extension programs.
- Participate in volunteer meetings and/or volunteer training sessions.
- Inform County Extension Agent of needs and changes necessary for the continued growth of the program.
- Maintain sound working relationships with County Extension Agent and fellow volunteers and elected county officers.
- Review and agree to abide by the Financial Guidelines for 4-H and Master Gardener Groups.
- Abide by the UA Cooperative Extension Service Volunteer Agreement & Expectations for Volunteers & Volunteer Groups.

**Howard County
Extension Office
421 N. Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852
870-845-7517**

**Jean A. Ince –
CEA-Staff Chair**

**Samantha Kroll –
CEA-Agriculture**

**Deb Kreul -
4-H Program Assistant**

**Cecilia Harberson –
Administrative Specialist III**

Due to Covid-19, Master Gardener training is being offered as an on-line training. This training typically costs \$125, but at this time it is being offered for \$75. The course dates are September 9, 2020 – December 15, 2020. You will be able to work at your own pace during this time to complete all training. Applications can be picked up in the office; feel free to call if you have any questions about the organization.

Qualities of Common Feeds

Livestock producers, it's always a good idea to know the qualities of common feeds for your animals.

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Know Your Common Feeds

- High Crude Protein**
 - Soybean meal (54%)
 - Cottonseed meal (46%)
 - Distillers grains (30%)
 - Corn gluten feed (24%)
- Low Energy - TDN**
 - Rice mill feed (47%)
 - Cottonseed hulls (45%)
 - Gin trash (43%)
- High Energy - TDN**
 - Soybean (94%)
 - Cottonseed (93%)
 - Distillers grains (89%)
 - Corn grain[†] (88%)
 - Hominy[†] (87%)
 - Sorghum grain[†] (86%)
 - Corn gluten feed (80%)
- High Fat**
 - Soybean (21%)
 - Cottonseed (19%)
 - Rice bran (18%)
 - Distillers grains (11%)
 - Hominy (7%)
- High Roughage**
 - Cottonseed hulls (100%)
 - Gin trash (100%)
- Moderate Protein:Energy**
 - Wheat middlings[†] (19%:73%)
 - Soybean hulls (12%:62%)
- Things to avoid:**
 - Too many high fat ingredients
 - Excessive protein
 - Too much starch (denoted †) in supplements for forage based diets

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

manure is the most common cause of nitrate buildup in plants. Johnsongrass, pearl millet, and sorghum/Sudan grass are the forages most often found with high nitrate levels, but others can accumulate high nitrate under stressful conditions. Any stress on the plant which causes abrupt stoppage of growth can also contribute to nitrate buildup (drought, herbicide damage, even late afternoon wilting). Nitrates will persist in the grass when hayed. Prussic acid does not. If considering cutting for hay, consider a nitrate test first, especially if the field received heavy N fertilization. Nitrates are higher in younger plants than older ones. Higher concentrations are in the stem and lower third of the plant. Prussic acid is also higher in young plants than older ones, but it concentrates more in the leaves than the stems. Regrowth contains the most nitrates and prussic acid. If haying, raising the mower even a couple of inches could make a difference in hay nitrate content. Grazing brand new regrowth after bushhogging or cutting isn't recommended, especially if the field received heavy N fertilization. Prussic acid is also known as hydrocyanic acid. Prussic acid dissipates after being hayed. For this reason, testing anywhere but directly in the field isn't very reliable. Fields that received a lot of N, but are deficient in P and K, are susceptible to toxic concentrations of nitrate.



Controlling Cool Season Weeds – Both Turf and Pasture

To get the most out of a pre-emergent herbicide program for winter annual weed control such as henbit, dead nettle, and annual bluegrass, make the application now or at least by September 15. Applications made in late September or thereafter often miss the beginning of germination of winter annual grasses and broadleaves. Remember after applying the pre-emergent herbicide, it needs to be watered in within a few days to activate it. Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall.



Nitrate and Prussic Acid Poisoning in Cattle

There are no visual signs of toxicity in forages. Nitrate poisoning in cattle is caused by the consumption of an excessive amount of nitrate or nitrite from grazing crops, hay, silage, weeds, drinking water, lubricating oil, fertilizer, etc. Excessive fertilization with poultry litter or animal

What are the signs of nitrate poisoning in cattle? The most likely signs of nitrate poisoning are:

- difficult and painful breathing
- cyanotic membranes
- rapid breathing
- muscle tremors
- weakness
- low tolerance to exercise
- incoordination
- diarrhea
- frequent urination
- dark- to chocolate-colored blood
- collapse
- milk production may also be reduced

Nitrate poisoning may cause death within one-half hour to four hours after symptoms appear. Symptoms usually appear when methemoglobin reaches 30 to 40 percent, and death occurs when methemoglobin reaches 80 to 90 percent.

Observe animals closely for signs of toxicity and call a veterinarian immediately if symptoms occur.

How to Select a Houseplant

Remember that it is easier to purchase a plant which requires the same environmental conditions your residence has to offer than to alter the environment of your home or office to suit the plants.



Below are more tips for choosing the right plant for your home.

- When shopping for a houseplant, select only those foliage plants which appear to be insect and disease free.
- Check the undersides of the foliage and the axils of leaves for signs of insects or disease.
- Select plants that look sturdy, clean, well potted, shapely, and well-covered with leaves.
- Choose plants with healthy foliage. Avoid plants which have yellow or chlorotic leaves, brown leaf margins, wilted or water-soaked foliage, spots or blotches and spindly growth. In addition, avoid leaves with mechanical damage, and those which have been treated with "leaf shines" which add an unnatural polish to the leaves.
- Plants which have new flowers and leaf buds along with young growth are usually of superior quality.

Fall Pest Control

- Twig girdler insects should be controlled if large numbers of small branches of elms, pecans, or persimmons are uniformly girdled from the tree and fall to the ground. You can prevent the next generation by destroying the fallen twigs.

• Watch for spider mites in gardens. If plants appear to have lost their luster, you might have spider mites. View the underside of leaves with a hand lens. If you spot 1 or 2 per leaf, control can be achieved with a couple of applications of horticultural oil or insecticidal soap. Finding more than that, organic methods are found to be ineffective and you will need to use bifenthrin. If you experience spider mites every year, take a review of your gardening methods. Spider mites can be kept in check by applying good horticultural practices.



- Resume spraying roses that are susceptible to black spot and other fungus diseases when they have started a flush of fall growth.

Fall Planting Options

September

Bok Choi (40-60)
 Pak Choi (40-50)
 Carrots (66-75)
 Swiss Chard (60)
 Beets (54-68)
 Spinach (42)
 Kohlrabi (50)
 Cauliflower (66)
 Cabbage (60-82)
 Broccoli (50-75)
 Collards (50-75)
 Kale (55)
 Mustard (40-50)
 Turnips (40-55)
 Radish (24-30)
 Lettuce (45-65)

October

Cover Crops
 Lettuce (45-65)
 Shallots (90-120)
 Leeks (70-130)
 Garlic (210-240)
 Collards (50-75)
 Mustard (40-50)
 Kohlrabi (50)
 Turnips (40-55)
 Spinach (42)
 Strawberries (1-5 years)

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact the Howard County Extension Office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samantha Kroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Samantha Kroll

County Extension Agent-Agriculture

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.