

# BOYLE BUDS & BLOOMS



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

### AGENT REMARKS



*Kaitlin Farlee*  
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I hope you all are enjoy this fall season! The leaves are about to start changing and cooler weather has arrived. We have had a hot and dry summer so it is always nice to have a change in weather by this time of the year. Go out and support your local farmers for some fresh produce before the frost comes or check out local agritourism farms this fall.

Do you follow our new horticulture Facebook page **Boyle County Cooperative Extension-Horticulture**? Please give us a follow and stay up to date on what's going on around the office and Boyle County.

#### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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# Growing Your Own

## A beginner's guide to gardening

# Garlic

**G**arlic is a flavorful garden vegetable used in countless recipes. In Kentucky, plant garlic in October and early November. Leave it in the garden for the winter, then harvest in early to mid-summer when leaves begin to turn yellow and brown at the tips.

## Types

Garlic is most often grouped into hardneck and softneck types. Hardneck garlic also grows edible flower stalks called scapes with bulbils at the top. Bulbils are tiny garlic bulbs inside the flower head.

## Varieties

Hardneck varieties are more cold hardy than softneck, but both perform well in Kentucky. Softneck varieties often store much longer than hardneck. Try these varieties, but others may also do well.

- **Music** (hardneck) is a very popular garlic with classic garlic flavor. It also stores well.
- **Bogatyr** (hardneck) forms smaller bulbs with outer skin that is purple striped.
- **Polish** (softneck) produces very large bulbs with white skin. It offers good storage and strong flavor.
- **Inchelium Red** (softneck) produces large bulbs with mild flavor that are excellent for storage.



Music garlic  
*Johnny's Selected Seeds*



Garlic scapes  
*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



Garlic in the garden  
*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



Garlic bulbils  
*Ashley Adamant*



## How much to plant

A five-foot row should yield eight to 12 heads (bulbs) of garlic.

## How and when to plant

Plant garlic in an open, sunny spot with well-drained soil. In Kentucky, garlic is planted in the fall, mostly in October through early November.

Garlic grows best with added nutrients. Starting in spring, add a slow-release fertilizer or compost, or use a water-soluble fertilizer according to the product label.



A clove of garlic, at right, separated from the head or bulb  
Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky

Garlic Planting		
Rows: 12 to 18 inches apart	Spacing: 6 inches apart	Depth: 1 to 2 inches
Safe Planting Dates		
Region	Earliest	Latest
Eastern Kentucky	Oct. 1	Nov. 1
Central Kentucky	Oct. 1	Nov. 7
Western Kentucky	Oct. 1	Nov. 15

## Pests and disease

If you see tiny, speckled holes or twisted leaves, you may have thrips. Onion maggots can also affect garlic bulbs if you grow onions or garlic in the same location for many years. Please see UK Cooperative Extension publication *Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky* (ID-128) at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID128/ID128.pdf> or contact your Extension agent for tips to control pests.



Close-up of thrips feeding damage on leaf  
Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org, CC BY 3.0



## Harvesting

In addition to garlic bulbs, you can also eat garlic leaves, scapes, and bulbils, which all have a garlic taste. You can harvest these while the plant is growing, and you can use them like garlic cloves. Be sure to harvest only some leaves in order for the plant to still grow and produce big garlic bulbs.

Bulbs start to mature in late June to mid-July the year after you plant them. When several leaves begin to yellow and tips turn brown, garlic bulbs are ready to harvest. With care, loosen the soil around the bulbs. Gently pull the stalk to remove the bulb from the ground. Shake off excess soil and place in a shaded area to cure (dry) for about two weeks. Once dry, you can braid the tops together or tie them for storage, or you can remove the tops. Keep some bulbs to plant for next year's crop.



Harvesting garlic

*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



Onion thrips and damage

*Ric Bessin, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension*



Garlic stacked to dry

*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



Garlic bulb

*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



## Storing

Store garlic in a cool spot with good airflow. Put garlic in mesh bags, wooden crates with slatted sides, or other storage that gives good airflow. You can hang braided garlic to store. Well-dried garlic should keep for six to seven months.

## Serving

People in many cultures have treasured garlic for its strong flavor and smell. Garlic has chemicals that may help fight long-term health issues like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Almost every cuisine around the world uses garlic.

You can eat garlic raw or cooked. You can roast or grill whole heads of garlic. And you can pickle garlic cloves or infuse them into oil. Garlic powder is used for cooking and in health supplements. You can also find garlic in soups, salad dressings, and sauces.

To use garlic cloves, divide the cloves and remove the papery skin from each one. Five seconds in the microwave will make the skin easy to remove. Cut off the hard root end. Cut, crush, use a garlic press or use whole cloves.

To use garlic greens or scapes, wash and cut. They can be eaten raw or cooked.

## Clean up

Pull out any leftover plants. Compost healthy plant material. Throw away any diseased plants.



Garlic hung for storage

*Jann Knappage, University of Kentucky*



Head of garlic cloves

*Erika Olsen, University of Kentucky*



## Summary

### Varieties

There are two types of garlic: hardneck and softneck. Both grow well in Kentucky. Music and Bogatyr are two recommended types. Softneck types store longer.

### How much to plant?

A five-foot row should grow eight to 12 heads of garlic.

### How and when to plant?

In Kentucky, plant garlic from October to early November and harvest the next summer. Plant cloves of garlic in well-drained, sunny soil. Space six inches apart and plant one to two inches deep.

### Pests and diseases

Watch for thrips.

### Harvesting

You can harvest garlic greens and scapes (flower stalks) regularly. Garlic bulbs are ready to harvest when the leaves yellow and tips turn brown. With care, remove bulbs from the soil. Place in a shaded area to dry for about two weeks. Once dry, braid or tie tops together for storage, or remove tops for storage. Keep some bulbs to plant next season.

### Storing

Hang garlic in small bunches or store flat. Keep in a cool, dark, dry place. Dry garlic should keep for six to seven months.

### Serving

Eat garlic cloves and greens raw or cooked. They are used in many recipes.

### Clean up

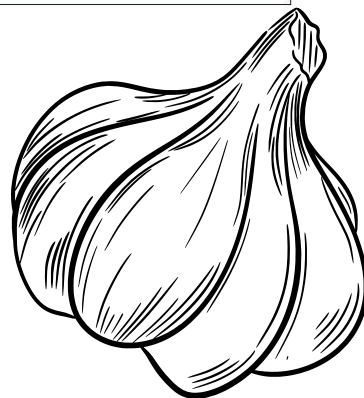
The crop is harvested completely in summer. Little clean up is needed after harvest.

### Authors

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## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Lexington, KY 40506 Issued 10-2024



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



# FALL PUMPKIN CENTERPIECE CLASS

**FREE CLASS CREATING A FRESH FLORAL ARRANGEMENT  
IN A PUMPKIN**

**OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00AM  
BOYLE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
99 CORPORATE DRIVE, DANVILLE KY 40422**

**PLEASE CALL 859-236-4484  
TO RSVP  
YOU MUST RSVP BY 10/24/25 IN ORDER TO ATTEND  
THE CLASS**



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## Tree Surface Roots

Exposed tree roots are a common issue caused by a tree's natural growth, soil conditions, and erosion, not a sign of poor tree health. You should never cut or grind down these roots, as this can harm the tree's stability and health.

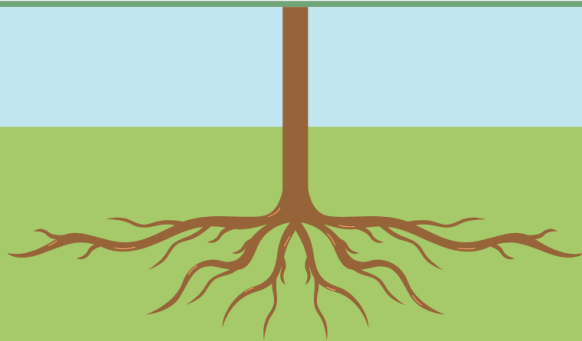
### WAYS TO MANAGE SURFACE ROOTS:

#### Mulching:

Apply two to three layers of shredded wood or chips over exposed roots.

#### Planting Grass:

Add a thin layer of topsoil between the roots and seed with grass. Repeat every few years.



Source: Rick Durham, UK Extension Horticulture Professor  
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

# BECOME A



# TODAY!

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a real impact right in  
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The Green Neighbor  
program invites  
homeowners in Central  
Kentucky to embrace  
environmentally-  
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contribute to a  
healthier planet.



Scan the QR code above or  
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[https://bggreensource.org/  
green-neighbor/](https://bggreensource.org/green-neighbor/) to apply!



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For more information contact Rachel Skinner at [rachel.skinner@bggreensource.org](mailto:rachel.skinner@bggreensource.org)

  
Horticulture  
Webinar  
Wednesdays

12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT

Visit [kentuckyhortnews.com](http://kentuckyhortnews.com)



# OCT CLASSES

Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. ET/ 11:30 a.m. CT

**Oct 1 - Backyard Grapes**

**Oct 8 - Cover Crops in the  
Home Garden**

**Oct 15 - Protecting Fruit  
Trees from Varmits**

**Oct 22 - Self-Watering  
Wicking Beds**

**Oct 29 - Hardy Palms**

**Register at:**

**<https://www.tinyurl.com/octHWW25>**

You must register  
before the class to  
receive the link.

<https://www.tinyurl.com/octHWW25>

Click on the classes  
you want to  
attend.

You will get an  
email with the  
class link.