

Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

Boyd County Cooperative Extension Service



Greetings,

As October arrives, we're reminded that fall is a season of transition. Fields are being harvested, pastures are settling into cooler weather, and many of us are preparing for the months ahead. It's a great time to reflect on the work accomplished this year while also looking forward to opportunities for growth and learning this winter.

Meredith Hall
Boyd County Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Upcoming Events:

*Events that require Preregistration

- * **Small Ruminant Workshop - Oct. 9**
Call to register 606-739-5184
- * **HBCA Meeting - Oct. 23**
6:00 p.m. @ Franks Building
- **Emergency Calf Care Workshop- Nov. 18th**
Morehead State University



Introducing FiveCo Ag!

The UK Cooperative Extension ANR Agents in **Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Greenup, & Lawrence** counties are working together to bring educational opportunities to you!

Boyd	(606) 739-5184	Meredith Hall
Carter	(606) 474-6686	Rebecca Konopka
Elliott	(606) 738-6400	Jacob Ison
Greenup	(606) 836-0201	Linda Hieneman
Lawrence	(606) 673-9495	Lane Hall

Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office for more details!

Highlands Beef Cattle Association Meeting

October 23, 6:00 pm

Boyd County Kentucky
Franks Building
1760 Addington Rd.
Ashland, KY. 41102

Call: (606) 739-5184 to register

Meets CAIP education requirements

Meal Provided.

SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP

October 9, 2025

5:00pm

249 Industrial Park Rd. Louisa KY 41230

Guest Speaker, Dr. Jessie Lay from University of Kentucky

CALL TO REGISTER

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CAIP ELIGIBLE

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Kentucky Forest Signal Season Change.

By :Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester

If you've been waiting all year to see beautiful fall colors in Kentucky, it is almost time. Mid-October is usually the beginning of the state's brilliant fall tree color show. Actually, these brilliant colors have been there all along; they've been masked by a cloak of chlorophylls, green pigments vital to a tree's food-making process.

Trees use and replenish chlorophylls during the growing season. High replacement maintains green leaf color. As fall approaches, the green pigments are replaced at a slower rate due to complex environmental factors and the trees' genetic makeup. The dwindling supply of green pigments unmasks other pigments that were present all along, revealing the spectacular show of fall color.

We can enjoy a variety of fall colors because Kentucky's diverse climate and soil composition enable many diverse trees to grow here.

Black gum, pear, sumac, dogwood, maple, oak and sassafras trees produce various shades of red. Other trees give us a range of orange and yellow hues such as yellow-poplar, birch, hickory and beech.

Since black gum and sumac trees shut down chlorophyll production early, they are the first to reveal fall color. Both change from green to red, leaf by leaf. No leaf seems to be all green or red at the same time, giving a spotty appearance throughout the trees.

You might be surprised to know that what makes leaves change color has less to do with "Jack Frost" and more to do with shorter days activating a "chemical clock" that tells the trees to shut down chlorophyll production and prepare for winter.

When the tree completely shuts down chlorophyll production, a layer at the base of the leaf forms. This abscission layer causes the leaf to fall off the branch, leaving only the bud with next year's leaves and flowers to wait for the signal in the spring to bloom and grow.

For more information on fall tree color or other forestry topics, contact your Boyd Cooperative Extension Service office.

WEED OF THE MONTH Winter Creeper



Winter creeper was introduced from China in the early 1900s as an ornamental. Unfortunately, it escaped the confines of the garden and now out competes native vegetation for space, light, nutrients, and moisture. The plant is well suited for invasion as birds spread its seeds, and it can also reproduce vegetatively. It forms a very dense ground cover that eliminates native wildflowers. Its thick carpet of leafy vines impedes recruitment of trees and shrubs as well. Winter creeper can grow as a shrub to about three feet. As a vine it can climb vertically for 40 to 70 feet into trees and can over top small ones, causing decreased vigor or death. Winter creeper is a perennial and can tolerate a wide variety of growing conditions from full sun to deep shade and acidic to basic soils. Openings in the forest canopy from disturbances such as windfalls, ice storms, or mechanical removal of the over story can hasten the spread of this vigorous invader.

IDENTIFICATION

Form:

- Wintercreeper has several growth forms and can look different depending on how it is growing:
 - It can grow as a vine, capable of growing 40 to 70 feet high up trees and into canopies (Fig. 1).
 - It can form a dense groundcover, excluding the growth of other species (Fig. 2).
 - It can grow as a small shrub, up to 3 feet in height, or appear to grow as a larger shrub or small tree if growing over something that is obscured by its leaves, such as a dead tree or fence.

Leaves:

- Wintercreeper's leaves are evergreen, opposite, about 1-2½ inches long, broadly oval, thick, and shiny dark green with very fine teeth on the leaf margins (Fig. 3).
- Wintercreeper leaves can look different depending on the growth form, even on the same plant. When growing as a vine or shrub, leaves are typically larger, thinner, and lighter in color. When growing as a ground cover, leaves are typically smaller, thicker, and darker in color
- Leaf veins are often white, and some plants have a light variegation on the leaves.



Figure 1. Wintercreeper growing as a vine up a tree.
Photo credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Management:

Vines Growing Up Trees and Shrubs:

Cut stump herbicide application:

- Cut all stems that are climbing up onto trees and shrubs to halt flowering and seed production.
- Treat the cut surface of the vine with 25% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr.
- Avoid cut stump applications in the spring .

Ground Cover Infestation:

Mechanical Removal:

- Hand pull or remove with a hoe or mattock. Be sure to get the entire plant any roots that are left behind will re sprout!
- Large areas can be mowed with a sickle bar mower and cut materials removed.
- Re-sprouts can be treated with foliar applications of glyphosate or triclopyr.

Herbicide Application:

- Because of wintercreeper's waxy leaves, foiliar applications benefit from the addition of a surfactant.
- Late fall and early winter are the best times for herbicide application.

Solarization:

- Cover the ground patches of wintercreeper with heavy black plastic for two years to kill the vegetation.

Follow-up:

- Retreatment will be necessary to completly control wintercreeper.
- Seeds remain viable in the soil for years.

Active Ingredient	Common Brands	Treatment
glyphosate	Roundup™, Accord™, and others	Cut vines growing up trees allow to resprout and spray new foliage with 25% solution of concentrate (40-50% active ingredient). Weed eat or mow ground mats of wintercreeper, allow to resprout and spray new foliage with 2% solution. Or weed eat mats and apply herbicide to damaged foliage.
triclopyramine	Garlon 3a™	For foliar application of ground covering vines, consider a 3% rate with methylated seed oil and a non-ionic surfactant also added (following label directions). Weed eat or mow ground mats of wintercreeper, allow to resprout and spray new foliage with 2% solution. Or weed eat mats and apply herbicide to damaged foliage. This formulation is approved for use in aquatic areas.
triclopyrester	Garlon 4™	For foliar application of ground covering vines, consider a 3% rate with methylated seed oil and a non-ionic surfactant also added (following label directions). Volatilization is a serious problem for foliar applications of the ester in summer. Use a 25% solution on the cut stumps during the summer.
triclopyrcoline	Vastlan™	This newer formulation of triclopyr is approved for use in aquatic areas.
picloram/ 2,4-D	Pathway™	On uncut foliage July to October apply 3% solution with surfactant. Repeat applications may be necessary. ²

Cautions:

- Wintercreeper, typical of many vines, is difficult to control and may require more than one application. The waxy nature of mature leaves is one factor that must be addressed either by adding surfactant or by treating newly formed leaves or damaging older leaves prior to application.
- Make sure that you follow all label directions. Mix and apply the chemical in the proper manner and at the recommended times. Protect your eyes during mixing and application (where necessary) and check label for personal protective equipment and other precautions.

¹ Other herbicide brands can be used for wintercreeper control. The herbicides that are listed are those that have been commonly used or recommended.

² From Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, USDA Forest Service, SRS GTR-62 by James H. Miller.

Figure 7. Timeline for wintercreeper management practices.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hand Pulling												
Foliar Application												
Cut Stump												
Solarization (2 years)												

*A note that this is a general calendar of recommended wintercreeper management practices based on plant development at different times of year. Since timing varies in different locations (and in different years), it may not apply precisely to wintercreeper in your specific location.



Monthly Recipe



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.



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



Venison Steak

- 2 pounds round venison steak
- ½ cup flour
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, if desired
- 3 carrots, diced
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth

Cut steak into eight 4-ounce servings. Mix flour, salt, pepper, and garlic powder and coat steak with flour mixture. Brown in oil on each side. Layer steak in slow cooker. Add mushrooms, carrots, and onion. Pour beef broth over steak. Cover and cook on low 8 to 10 hours.

Variation: Rabbit or squirrel can be substituted for venison.

Yield: 8 servings

Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection,
Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension
Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container
Serving size 4 ounces (218g)

Amount per serving
Calories 220

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 7g	9%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 95mg	32%
Sodium 310mg	13%
Total Carbohydrate 11g	4%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 3g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 28g	
Vitamin D 4mcg	20%
Calcium 23mg	2%
Iron 4mg	20%
Potassium 538mg	10%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

