

DUBOIS COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CONNECTION

April 2021

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. – Greek Proverb

Soil Testing is Foundation for Success in Gardens & Lawns

As Spring begins to round the corner, homeowners are beginning to have thoughts of lawns and gardens, orchards and landscaping. For any of these “projects”, homeowners should consider routine soil tests to better insure that all types of plants have the right nutrients available, and well as the correct nutrients in the correct amounts.

Soil tests, which might be as infrequently as every three to five years once initially conducted and after the correct fertilizers have been applied, help insure that plants receive adequate amounts of fertilizer while helping to prevent over-applications which cost money as well as endanger the environment.

For folks wanting to take soil samples of their lawn or garden, field or forage the Purdue Extension - Dubois County office has sampling kits available for pick-up. Kits contain instructions and mailing materials for the complete submission to a laboratory for professional analysis, with a fee of \$19.95 per submitted sample.



Instructions in the kit describe where and how to take a sample, depth for specific sample use areas (i.e. a lawn vs. a garden vs. a field), how to dry and bag the sample, and, finally, how to submit the sample using the included mailing envelope.

Results will be returned to the owner with specific fertilizer and liming suggestions based on the submitted test results as well as the intended plant use of the sampled area. (Results are laboratory done and much better than the questionable results we’ve sometimes seen from inaccurate store-bought “quick kits”).

Sample kits can be picked up during normal business hours of 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at our office at 1482 Executive Blvd., Jasper, IN 47546 (just east of Vincennes University Jasper Campus in the basement of the USDA Service Center).

Purdue Publications

Information for a wide variety of topics for home and garden, community and family can be found (often for FREE!) at the Purdue Extension “Education Store” at:

<https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/>

Wild Mushrooms

There are over 2,000 kinds of wild mushrooms in the Midwest. Some are poisonous and some are edible and delicious when properly prepared. The edibility of the majority is either not known or they are not considered for food because of their small size or poor flavor or texture.

Even though not everyone is interested in collecting mushrooms to eat, it is important to understand most have an important and beneficial role in the environment. They grow in a wide variety of habitats. Most of the mushrooms seen on a walk through a woods are beneficial. Many species are quite specific about their food source and will be found only under or near certain kinds of trees-some under pines, others under oak, etc. Some are important as decay organisms, aiding in the breakdown of logs, leaves, stems and other organic debris. This important role of mushrooms results in recycling of essential nutrients. Some mushrooms grow in, and form their fruiting structures on, living trees causing decay of the sapwood or of the heartwood. Many woodland mushrooms are essential to good growth, and even survival of trees. They establish a relationship with roots of living trees that is mutually beneficial. These are called mycorrhizal mushrooms. All mushrooms, whether poisonous or edible can be admired for their beauty and fantastic variety of form, color and texture.

Which Mushrooms are Safe to Eat?

Some edible mushrooms are very similar in appearance to poisonous kinds and may grow in the same habitat. Edible mushrooms are known to be safe to eat because they have been eaten frequently with no ill effects. Poisonous mushrooms are known because someone ate them and became ill or died. There is no test or characteristic to distinguish edible from poisonous mushrooms. This indicates a need to identify with certainty one of several of the proven edible species and pick and eat only those positively identified. At the same time, you should also learn to identify some of the common poisonous mushrooms, especially those that are similar to edible kinds. It is especially important to learn the characteristics of the Amanita mushrooms, since several of the species common in Ohio are poisonous, a few causing serious illness and sometimes death.



The word "toadstool" is often used to indicate a poisonous mushroom. Since there is no way to distinguish between a so-called "toadstool" and an edible mushroom it is more precise to speak of poisonous mushrooms or edible mushrooms.

The season for collecting wild mushrooms for food begins in late March and early April when the first morel or sponge mushrooms are found. These choice edible mushrooms are most abundant during April and the first two weeks of May. The false morels (members of the Gyromitra genus) are found at this same time of the year, but they must be regarded as poisonous and not collected for eating. It is true that many have eaten false morels with no apparent ill effects. However, recent research has shown toxins to be present in some of the false morels that can cause death or serious illness. Do not eat the false morels.

Edible vs. Poisonous-True or False

- Poisonous mushrooms tarnish a silver spoon. False
- If it peels, you can eat it. False
- All mushrooms growing on wood are edible. False
- Mushrooms that squirrels or other animals eat are safe for humans. False
- All mushrooms in meadows and pastures are safe to eat. False
- All white mushrooms are safe. False (In the Midwest, the most common "deadly" mushrooms are white.)
- Poisonous mushrooms can be detoxified by parboiling, drying or pickling. False

Tips For Collecting Wild Mushrooms

- Be sure of your identification-eat only kinds known to be edible.
- Do not eat mushrooms raw.
- Eat only mushrooms in good condition.
- Eat only one kind at a time and do not eat large amounts.
- Eat only a small amount the first time; even morels, generally considered to be excellent, may cause illness in some persons.
- Don't experiment. There is an old saying, "There are old mushroom hunters, and bold mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

Source: "Wild Mushrooms", HYG-3303, C. Wayne Ellett, Plant Pathologist, Ohio State University
<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-3303>

Purdue 17 Year Cicada Workshop

April 27, 2021

6:30 PM EST

Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds

Clover Pavilion

4157 S. State Road 162

Huntingburg, IN 47542

Learn about the emerging “Brood X” periodic cicadas, including life cycles, damage to trees and landscaping, controls, affects on pets, and even recipes (taste like crab!).
Event is open to all.

This event will occur indoors. COVID precautions are required for those attending, including masks, hand washing, social distancing, and on-site registration.



**PURDUE
EXTENSION**

PURDUE EXTENSION
**Master
Gardener**
PROGRAM

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.

Spring Vegetable Planting Calendar

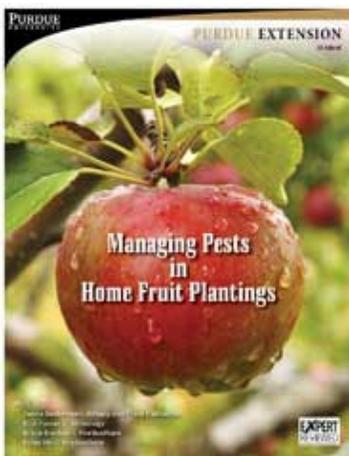
Table 1. Earliest Ranges of Dates for Spring Planting of Selected Vegetables in the Garden for Dubois County, Indiana

Dubois County, Indiana

Asparagus	Mar 15-Apr 15	Onion (1)	Mar 15-Apr 10
Bean, Lima	May 1-June 20	Onion, seed	Mar 15-Apr 1
Bean, Snap	Apr 25-June 30	Onion, sets	Mar 10-Apr 1
Beet	Mar 20-June 1	Parsley	Mar 20-Apr 20
Broccoli, sprouting	Mar 25-Apr 20	Parsnip	Mar 20-Apr 20
Brussels sprout	Mar 25-Apr 20	Peanut	May 5-June 1
Cabbage	Mar 10-Apr 1	Pea, garden	Mar 10-Apr 10
Cabbage, Chinese	(2)	Pea, black-eye	May 10-June 15
Carrot	Apr 1-May 15	Pepper (1)	May 10-June 1
Cauliflower	Mar 15-Apr 20	Potato	Mar 15-Apr 10
Celery	Apr 10-May 1	Pumpkin	May 1-June 15
Chard	Apr 1-June 15	Radish	Mar 10-May 10
Chervil and chives	Mar 10-Apr 10	Rhubarb (1)	Mar 10-Apr 10
Chicory	June 15-July 1	Rutabaga	(3)
Collard (1)	Mar 10-June 1	Salsify	Mar 20-May 1
Cornsalad	Feb 15-Apr 15	Shallot	Mar 15-Apr 15
Corn, sweet	Apr 15-June 15	Sorrel	Mar 15-May 1
Cress, upland	Mar 20-May 1	Soybean	May 10-June 20
Cucumber	May 1-June 15	Spinach	Mar 1-Apr 15
Eggplant	May 10-June 1	Spinach, N.Zealand	May 1-June 15
Endive	Mar 25-Apr 15	Squash, sum. & win.	May 1-June 15
Fennel, Florence	Mar 25-Apr 15	Sweet potato	May 10-June 10
Garlic Feb	Mar 10-Apr 1	Tomato	May 5-June 10
Horseradish	Mar 20-Apr 20	Turnip	Mar 10-Apr 1
Kale	Mar 20-Apr 10	Watermelon	May 1-June 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 20-May 1		
Leek	Mar 15-Apr 15		
Lettuce, head (1)	Mar 20-Apr 15		
Lettuce, leaf	Mar 20-May 15		
Muskmelon	May 1-June 15		
Mustard	Mar 20-May 1		
Okra	May 1-June 1		

- (1) Plants (transplant instead of direct seeding on indicated dates)
 (2) Generally fall-planted
 (3) Substitute turnips in Dubois County
 — No information available

Source: Growing Vegetables in the Home Garden, USDA Bulletin 202.



2021 Fruit Pest Guide Available

Anyone who has attempted to grow fruit crops knows that they are attacked by a wide variety of insects and diseases, and are prone to environmental damage.

Managing Pests in Home Fruit Plantings (ID-146-W) provides information needed to produce an acceptable amount of quality fruit (apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants), with cultural and chemical controls, pest control schedules, and beautiful photos to aid in knowing what and when to spray.

Available for free download at:

www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-146-W.pdf



Tree Planting

for
Conservation, Timber & Wildlife

*Join forestry professionals for a hands-on demonstration of tree planting
for conservation, timber and wildlife.*

Machine and hand planting will be demonstrated.

*Foresters will discuss how to plan for successful planting, seedling care, planting techniques,
care of trees in the years following planting, and the technical assistance and financial
incentives available for conservation planting.*

April 22, 2021

(April 29 rain date)

4:00 pm—6:00 pm EDT

Ken Otto Property, Whoderville Rd, Jasper

No cost!

But, please register by April 19th to receive packet of materials.

For more information contact:

Ron Rathfon, Purdue Extension, at 812-678-5049 or ronr@purdue.edu

Registration Form

Name: _____ Address: _____ City, St: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ Registrations

Or email to: judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net; by Phone (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3446

Mail to: Judi Brown
Dubois County SWCD
1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A
Jasper, IN 47546

Spring Garden Calendar

Woody Landscape Plants & Fruit Trees

April

- Bare-root stock should be planted before new top growth begins. Balled-and-burlaped and container stock can still be planted later in spring.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape trees and shrubs.
- Follow home orchard spray schedule to control insects and diseases. While trees are in bloom, use a pesticide containing fungicide only and no insecticide and thereby avoid injury to bees. Read and follow all label directions.

May

- Thin fruits of apple (and other fruit trees if needed) about 3 weeks after petal fall. Apples should be spaced on the average of about 8 inches apart; peaches at 6 inches apart. If a large crop is set and no thinning is practiced, all fruit will be small and branches may break.
- Apply fungicide sprays to roses to control diseases such as black spot.
- Prune early spring flowering trees and shrubs after flowers fade.

Lawn

April

- Seed bare spots.
- Apply pre-emergence herbicides to control crabgrass (April 1-20 Southern Indiana, April 21-May 10 Northern Indiana). The herbicide siduron is the only crabgrass preventer that can be used on newly seeded lawns.

May

- If needed, apply billbug control to prevent egg laying or damage from larvae feeding.
- Apply post-emergence herbicides to control broadleaves if they are a problem. Be careful to avoid spraying or drifting herbicide onto garden plants.
- Fertilize in May using a 4-1-2 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet.
- If needed, apply insecticides to control sod webworm.
- Begin now to search for sod webworm or other turf-feeding caterpillars. Apply chemical controls only if a large number of caterpillars are present.

Flowers, Vegetables, & Small Fruit

April

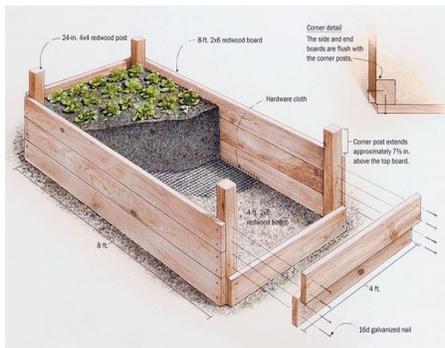
- Plant cool-season vegetables and flowers as soon as the ground has dried enough to work.
- Harden off transplants before planting outdoors by gradually exposing the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberry beds as soon as new growth begins, but keep the mulch nearby to protect against frost and freezes and to help keep weeds under control.
- Remove weak, diseased, or damaged canes from raspberry plants before new growth begins. Remove old fruiting canes (if not removed last year), and shorten remaining canes if necessary.
- Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs, and repair support trellises as needed.

May

- Allow foliage of spring flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant frost-tender plants after danger of frost is past for your area (late April/early May in Southern Indiana).
- Pinch chrysanthemums and annual flower plants to keep them compact and well-branched.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the season of harvest.
- Thin seedlings of earlier planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach, and beets to their proper spacing.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach, and lettuce.
- Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping spears at, or just below, the soil level.
- Harvest rhubarb by cutting or by grasping the stalk and pulling up and slightly to one side.
- To prevent bacterial wilt in cucumbers, control cucumber beetles, the carriers of the disease, as soon as plants germinate or are transplanted.
- Remove blossoms from newly set strawberry plants to allow better runner formation.
- Remove unwanted sucker growth in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.

Source: *Spring Garden Calendar (HO-91)*, B. Rosie Lerner and Michael N. Dana

Traditional Raised Bed Garden



A raised bed garden provides added drainage as well as increased access for those needing it.

Constructed of rot resistant wood such as redwood, a bed can be constructed of wood, 16d galvanized nails, hardware cloth and clean potting soil or dirt fill. The size shown is 8' X 4', with 24" 4 X 4 posts and 2 X 6 boards of 4' and 8' lengths. More info at:

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/raised-beds>



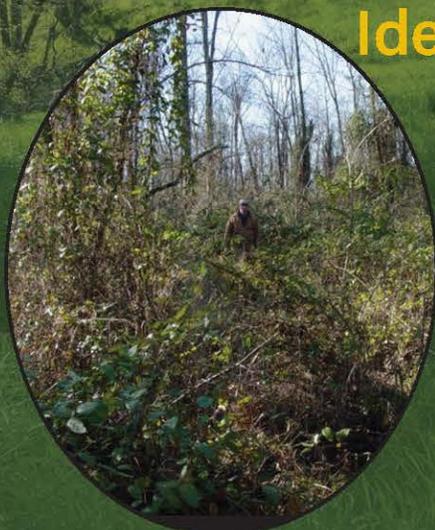
PURDUE
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Extension

Invasive Species Field Day



**Invasive Species
Identification**



**Invasive Species
Control Demos**

April 17, 2021 9 AM - Noon CDT

Rain Date: April 24

Featuring: Ron Rathfon, Purdue Extension Forester

Cost: \$20 per person

Location: Dzimianski-Zachmeyer Farm, St. Meinrad

Register at: <https://www.cvent.com/d/6jq1t8>

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action university. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please indicate on the registration form, or contact Sara Dzimianski prior to the meeting at 812-547-7084 or sdzimian@purdue.edu by April 10, 2021.

How To Tune Up the Lawn Mower

When you're having a hard time starting your lawn mower, it may be time to take your mower to a local dealership or repair shop for a tune-up. Or you can tune it up yourself, as it's fairly easy. You only need to do three easy (although dirty) steps. It would also be much more convenient for you to learn how to tune up your lawn mower on your own, as it is recommended that you tune up your lawn mower every year.



Here's how you do a tune-up on your lawn mower:

1. Change the Oil

Changing the oil is the first step, and also the dirtiest step, in the process of a tune-up. Make sure that the new oil is the right type of oil for the lawn mower (Consult operator's manual). Clean excess grime, grass clippings and debris from the oil tank before doing the oil change, and make sure you've drained out all the old oil. Don't tighten the cap too much when you're done with the oil change. Ensure there are no oil leaks by starting up the mower after the task and checking for any problems.

2. Change the Spark Plug

Disconnect the spark plug wire, clean the housing around it, and then remove the spark plug with a socket wrench. Make sure that you have the new spark plug gapped correctly and that it's compatible with your lawn mower (Check manual). If the new plug's gap is not compatible with your lawn mower, you will have to alter it to make it fit. When the plug is ready, screw it on but do not over-tighten.

3. Change / Clean the Air Filter

If your air filter is a paper air filter, then you need to replace it. Just unscrew the cover and change the paper filter. If your filter is a foam air filter, however, you don't have to replace it. You can just clean it by replacing the foam in the air filter with a new one. Once you've inserted the new foam, replace the cover back on and reconnect the spark plug wire.

Managing Molds in the Home



With the wet spring and summer conditions experienced by local homeowners this year came excess moisture around basements and crawl spaces, as well as side effects such as **household mold**.

Left untreated, household molds can contribute to health concerns such as respiratory illnesses. With simple treatments to reduce or eliminate moisture conditions, as well as thorough the use of appropriate cleansers and detergents, however, many molds can be dealt with effectively in small amounts.

For more information on managing and removing mold, visit the EPA's website at:

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>

ASSURED ADMISSION

PURDUE FAST START

PROGRAM

Purdue Fast Start Program

Giving Indiana students another pathway to Purdue and offering their families the opportunity to save thousands of dollars. These are the goals of the new Purdue Fast Start Program, which helps high school students earn university credits prior to entering college. Read more below about how you can receive an affordable and accessible education with Purdue's help.

<https://www.admissions.purdue.edu/purduefaststart>

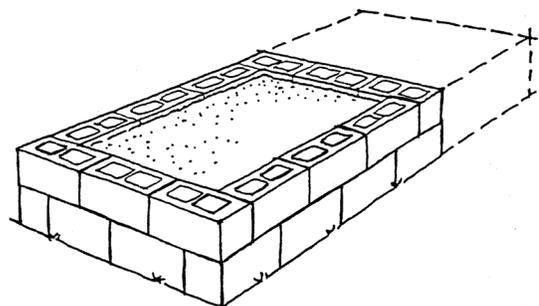
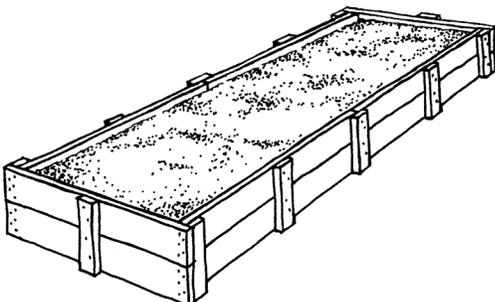
Find a CLEP test center near you at: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/test-center-search>

Raising Earthworms for Garden or Profit

As the weather continues to warm toward spring temperatures, folks are beginning to think about gardens and leisure activities. For those interested in worms for garden use, fishing use, or as a means to make some additional spending money through local bait and tackle shops, this publication is a good source for topics such as growing, harvesting and marketing worms in your neighborhood.

To learn more about worm production, visit the NCSU website at:

<https://bit.ly/2PzUnwb>





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Fax: (812) 482-3301
Website: <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/dubois>

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For more information, visit the Purdue Extension-Dubois County website:

www.extension.purdue.edu/dubois

DUBOIS COUNTY
AGRI-NEWS

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Email: kjeck@purdue.edu
www.extension.purdue.edu/dubois/

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

- Apr.14 Wild Eats: Cooking for Flavor & Safety – Game Birds/Waterfowl (Webinar)
- April 17 Perry County Invasive Species Field Day (St. Meinrad)
- April 22 Timber Planting for Conservation, Timber, and Wildlife (Jasper)
- April 24 4-H Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training (Bretzville)
- April 27 Purdue 17 Year Cicada Workshop (Bretzville)
- May 1 4-H Sheep and Goats ID Day (Bretzville)
- May 10 4-H Junior Leaders Meeting (TBA)
- May 15 4-H Animal ID Deadline
- May 16-June 30 4-H Project Entry at Fair Entry Site
- June 4 & 5 Grazing 102 Workshop (Cuzco)
- June 15 & 16 4-H Camp 2021 (Santa Claus)
- June 30 4-H WILD About Nature SPARK Club (Patoka Lake)
- July 12-16 Dubois County 4-H Fair (Bretzville)
- Aug. 6-22 Indiana State Fair (Indianapolis)