

EXTENSION NOTES



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Grow a More Successful Garden with a Fun Calendar

Gardening is a rewarding experience that provides fresh produce and a deeper connection to nature. [The Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar from Plan Eat Move](#)—a part of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service—is an excellent resource to guide both novice and seasoned gardeners through the planting and harvesting seasons. With monthly recommendations and engaging activities, the calendar helps individuals and families plan a productive and enjoyable gardening experience.

A well-planned garden starts with careful preparation. Before planting, sketching a layout can be a useful exercise. For families, involving children by having them cut out pictures of vegetables and placing them on the garden plan can be both educational and fun. This interactive approach encourages engagement while helping gardeners visualize plant placement and spacing for optimal growth.

The calendar provides a detailed month-by-month breakdown of what to plant and when to harvest. Beyond planting and harvesting, the calendar incorporates family-friendly activities to make gardening even more enjoyable. Keeping a garden journal allows individuals to track planting dates, growth progress and harvest yields.

Children can add their own observations through drawings or short descriptions. Taste tests with homegrown produce introduce youth to different flavors while emphasizing the benefits of fresh food. Creative activities, such as making DIY garden markers with craft materials, add a personal touch and help with plant identification.

Success in gardening often comes down to simple, consistent practices. By following the guidance in the Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar, gardeners can cultivate a thriving space that not only produces nutritious food but also fosters family bonding. Gardening is a journey filled with learning, patience and the satisfaction of harvesting what was planted. Whether tending to a small backyard plot or a larger garden, these seasonal tips and activities provide the foundation for success.

Pick up a calendar at the Carter County Extension Office or to access the guide online, visit <https://tinyurl.com/calendargarden>.

Contact the Carter County Extension office for more information on how to create a successful garden. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Upcoming Events:

- **Little Sandy Beekeepers** - Tuesday, March 4th @ 6:30 PM
- **Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training** – Friday, March 7th @ 10:00 AM – Call 474-6686 to register.
- **Private Pesticide Applicator Training** – Monday, March 10th @ 5:30 PM – Call 474-6686 to register.
- **Backyard Apple & Pear Care** – Monday, March 17th @ 6:00 PM – Cost is \$40 and participants receive either two pear or apple trees. Call 474-6686 to register.