

# Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



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

Cooperative Extension Service  
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April 2024

Welcome to April! Things are certainly ahead of schedule this year, including trees blooming and weeds popping out along with grass growing early as well.

I enjoy this time of year as the days are getting warmer and staying warm. Hopefully we'll have a good weather year with consistent moisture throughout the spring and summer, but only Mother Nature will tell whether or not this will happen.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryce Roberts,  
Spencer County Extension Agent for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## More Information

As always, if you need more information, feel free to **call me** at 477-2217.

You can also **email me** at broberts@uky.edu or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: [www.spencerextension.com](http://www.spencerextension.com)



## Soil Sample Now

As we are now into spring, this is still a good time to sample your fields, gardens, or lawns to see what type and how much fertilizer you need to make the soil as productive as possible. For each sample you want to submit, we need at least one pint (sandwich bag) of dry soil 4-8 inches below the soil surface. Please put your name and sample ID (north lawn, hayfield 2, etc.) on each bag.

Bring those in now so that you can get the results more quickly and in some cases go ahead and apply the fertilizer now so that the soil will be ready for your yard or crops.

This is a free service provided by the Spencer Co. Conservation District. Thanks to them for sponsoring the soil sampling program.

Our office is open normal business hours, but you have the option to drop off your samples anytime you like.

As you pull into our parking lot, please go to the right to the back of our building. You will then see our pavilion and on the pavilion, you will see a black tub with a yellow top to the right of the double doors. Inside the tub, you will find some paperwork that you will need to fill out so that we can properly test your soil. Place the paperwork and samples back into the tub.

I'll review the results and mail or email them to you in 2-3 weeks.

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Farmers Market Opening**

The **Taylorsville Farmers Market** will be opening up on **Saturday, April 20**, and will be open every Saturday from 8 a.m. until 12:00 noon until the end of October.

The market is located next to Fresh Take Market and the Kentucky Farm Bureau office in Taylorsville. I'll have more information on the market in next month's issue.

## **Beekeepers Association Meetings**

Just a quick reminder that the Spencer Co. Beekeepers Association holds monthly meetings at our office on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. They begin at 6:30 p.m.



## **Rinse and Return Program**

Our office will once again be a drop off location for the Rinse and Return program. It will be held on **August 12 from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.** Please collect and hold onto your containers until then.

The Rinse and Return Program is a voluntary, cooperative program sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Agri-Business Association of Kentucky (ABAK). Other partners include the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, which helps coordinate the Program on a county level, Farm Bureau, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the local conservation districts, and the Ag Container Recycling Council.

Due to the materials previously held by these pesticide containers they cannot be recycled with your ordinary household plastics. This program allows for the proper recycling of these pesticide containers. This reduces the amount of material entering the landfill or being disposed of by other means. Some of the end products include drainage pipe, highway sign posts, underground utility conduit, and wire/cable spool flanges.

## **Pressure Rinsing**

Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds. Continue holding the container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so rinsate will run into the sprayer tank.

Insert the pressure-rinse nozzle by puncturing through the bottom of the pesticide container.

Rinse for length of time recommended by the manufacturer (generally 30 seconds or more).

## **Triple Rinsing**

Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.

Fill the container 10% to 20% full of water or rinse solution.

Secure the cover on the container.

Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.

Remove cover from the container. Add the rinsate from the container to sprayer tank and let drain for 30 seconds or more.

Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.

Puncture container.

## **Gardening Tips for April**

These tips are provided by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. They can be found at:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/publication/gardening-calendars/>

**\*\*Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.**

**\*\*Get your copy of our Fruit Spray schedule. You can call our office to get a copy of it, or you can search "ID 21 UKY" in an internet search engine to download a copy of it. It tells you what and when to spray and what you are spraying for.**



## Total Solar Eclipse Will Dazzle on April 8th!

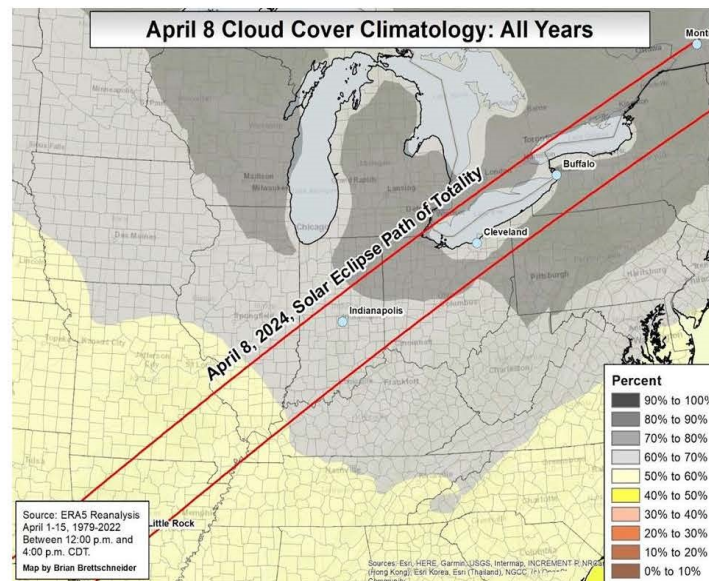
By Jane Marie Wix – National Weather Service Jackson, KY  
and Derrick Snyder - National Weather Service Paducah, KY



During the afternoon hours of Monday, April 8th, a spectacular celestial event will pass through the country – a total solar eclipse of the sun! The eclipse on April 8th will cross a good part of the southern, central, and northeastern portion of the country, including portions of far Western Kentucky. A large part of the Ohio River on the west half of the Commonwealth will be just outside of the totality. The map below is courtesy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and shows the path of the eclipse and what time it will reach locations in its path. For places in the path of totality (where the Sun will be completely obscured by the Moon), the sun will be covered between roughly two and four minutes.

Why do eclipses occur anyway? On Earth, the Sun appears about 400 times larger in the sky than the Moon does. However, the Sun is also about 400 times further away from Earth than the Moon is. This unique planetary positioning allows for special occurrences where the Moon perfectly obscures the Sun in what we call an eclipse. Solar eclipses only occur when the positions of the Sun and Moon align just right to block the sun. This alignment happens rarely because the orbit of the Moon around Earth is not a perfect circle. In reality it is more like an oval. For this reason, the next total solar eclipse visible in the U.S. will not be until 2033 in Alaska!

Will the weather cooperate for the eclipse? The biggest obstacle to seeing a solar eclipse is cloud cover. The timing of the eclipse in early April presents a challenge, as this can be a cloudy time of year in much of the country, including across Kentucky. The map below shows the typical amount of cloud cover present on April 8th in Kentucky and surrounding states. Most areas usually have at least half of the sky covered by clouds, and locations near the Great Lakes can see much cloudier conditions, with upwards of 75% of the sky covered by clouds on an average day.



Even if the clouds do not cooperate, seeing a total solar eclipse is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience! If you are in the path of totality, you may feel the temperature cool a few degrees as the sun becomes increasingly covered. Birds and insects will often become quiet and behave as they would at dusk. When totality arrives, the sun is completely covered! You may even be able to see the chromosphere (a layer of the sun's atmosphere) and the sun's corona (the outer layer of its atmosphere - appears as white streamers or plumes of ionized gas that flow outward into space).



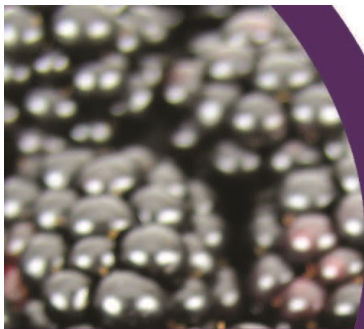


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## Blackberry Basil Grilled Cheese

**1 ½ cups** fresh blackberries  
**12-14** fresh basil leaves, chopped  
**2 tablespoons** olive oil

**8** slices of multigrain bread  
**4** slices cheese, such as  
Munster

In a large bowl, **mash** blackberries and basil with a fork. **Heat** an electric griddle or large skillet over medium-low heat. **Sprinkle** griddle or skillet with olive oil. **Place** bread on skillet. **Add** a slice of cheese and blackberry mixture. **Place** a second piece of bread on top of cheese and blackberries. **Cook** 3-5 minutes on one side. **Flip. Cook** 3-5 minutes or

until both sides are brown and cheese has melted.

**Serves:** 4 sandwiches

**Nutritional Analysis:**

250 calories, 15 g fat, 6 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 310 mg sodium, 23 g carbohydrate, 8 g fiber, 4 g sugar, 12 g protein