

Pruning Clematis

Few climbing plants rival the beauty of clematis. These hardy vines gracefully cover trellises, fences, and even nearby trees or shrubs. Their flowers come in several forms: small white clusters, bell-shaped blooms, or large, flat, open flowers, and display a wide range of colors with four to eight petals.



DENNIS MORGESON

While many gardeners know that clematis thrives in full sun with cool, mulched roots, far fewer understand how to prune them properly. Pruning is essential for maximizing flower production. Although clematis will bloom without pruning, the flowers are often confined to the top of the plant, where they are harder to enjoy. Clematis are divided

into three main pruning groups, based on when they bloom:
Group A (Early Spring Bloomers)
 These clematis bloom in April and May on growth produced the previous year (old wood). To avoid removing flower buds, prune them immediately after they finish blooming. Remove the shoots that have already flowered and lightly shape the plant if needed. Be sure to leave the main woody framework intact

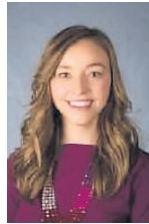
so new growth can develop and set buds for the following season.
Group B (Large-Flowered Hybrids)
 Group B clematis bloom twice, first in mid-June on old wood, and again later in the summer on new growth. Prune these plants in late winter (February or March) by removing dead or weak stems and cutting back remaining vines to the highest pair of healthy buds. Because these plants can become bare at

the base, you may occasionally cut them back more severely after their first bloom to encourage fuller growth lower on the plant.
Group C (Late Bloomers)
 These clematis bloom on new growth, typically from mid-June into fall. They are the easiest to prune since old wood is not needed for flowering. In late winter or early spring, cut all stems back to about two to three feet above the ground, remov-

ing any dead or weak growth. No additional pruning is needed during the growing season. Clematis is a durable, low-maintenance vine with few pest or disease issues. With proper pruning and care, it can produce an abundance of beautiful blooms and become a standout feature in any landscape. For more information about growing clematis, contact the Washington County Extension Office at 859-336-7741.

Managing Parent Stress without Anger

Parenting can be stressful especially when you are just figuring out life as a young parent or are in recovery. When things get tough, because they will, it is easy to feel overwhelmed or react in ways we regret. Learning healthy ways to handle stress helps both you and your child. Pause. When you notice



CABRINA BUCKMAN

tension building, pause and take a deep breath. Even a few slow breaths can calm your body and give your brain a chance to think clearly. If you can, step away for a short break, count to ten, splash cool water on your face, or stretch your hands. Stepping away from a situation can provide a new perspective or outlook, motion often

changes emotion. Recognize. It also helps to recognize your triggers. Are you more likely to snap when you are hungry, tired, or running late? Taking care of your basic needs such as rest, meals, and support can prevent stress from boiling over, or ever starting in the first place. Outlet. Healthy outlets for stress can include walking, journaling, listening to music, or talking to a trusted friend. These small

choices protect important relationships with your family members and show your child that it is okay to have feelings and to handle them safely. Model. Children learn by watching. When you model calm, they learn calm. When you apologize after losing your temper, they learn forgiveness. Remember that being a parent is a process often filled with getting it right and getting it wrong. At the end of the day, take

one minute to name something you handled well. Focusing on progress, not perfection, builds strength and confidence for tomorrow. Source: David Weisenhorn, PhD, Extension Specialist for Parenting and Child Development Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018, December 14). Managing stress daily can prevent you from developing long-term stress. Retrieved November 24,

2025 from <https://www.cdc.gov/mental-health/living-with/index.html> 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.

Spring turkey hunting season opens in April

FRANKFORT — After a frigid winter filled with snow and ice, Kentucky's 2026 spring turkey hunting season arrives with excitement for both hunters and biologists. Higher-than-usual turkey brood surveys – summertime observations of young turkey poults hatched that year – signal healthy populations of gobblers for hunters to pursue in the commonwealth this season. “All evidence suggests turkey numbers have improved over the past five years,” said Zak Danks, turkey-grouse program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “We share many hunters’ concerns about the turkey population, but the more we learn about our flock, the more excited we can be about the future.” The spring hunting season kicks off with a youth-only weekend, April 4-5, followed by the 23-day general season starting April 18. Hunters with proper permits can harvest two birds during the season but only one a day. Legal birds are male or have a beard. In 2025, hunters telechecked 30,661 birds, less than in 2024 and 2023 but more than in 2022 and 2021. Biologists say this year’s season has the potential for another high harvest, given numbers related to reproductive success two years ago: - Brood surveys from 2024 showed 70 percent of hens

with poults, compared to 62 percent in 2023. Male poults hatched in 2024 will be vocal 2-year-olds this spring. - The average number of poults per hen increased between 2023 and 2024 not only statewide (from 2.3 to 2.7) but also in all three regions of the state. The increases in poults per hen were most significant in the east (from 1.78 to 2.28) and west (from 2.62 to 3.11). - Last summer’s brood survey showed 3.5 poults per hen statewide. Production was greatest in the east (3.8) and in central Kentucky (3.6). Hunters should see an uptick in jakes this spring. Danks said the optimistic brood survey data was backed up by a three-year study of nests, brood habitat use and hen behavior in three counties in western Kentucky that used transmitters resembling backpacks to track movement of more than 230 turkeys. Preliminary estimates from that study showed the survival rate for adult hens was 70 percent to 74 percent and greater than 75 percent for juvenile hens – better than biologists predicted. In addition, the higher-than-usual number of successful nests and higher poult survival rates in those three counties in 2024 showed the tremendous impact of the emergence of the 13-year Brood XIX cicadas in western Kentucky that year. A separate four-year

research study that involved capturing and leg banding nearly 1,300 male birds showed Kentucky’s annual harvest rate was 29 percent for mature gobblers and 6 percent for juveniles (jakes). The average year-to-year survival rate was 56 percent for gobblers and 78 percent for jakes. “Harvest rates did not exceed the 30 percent to 35 percent threshold that past research indicated could be unsustainable, so we’re right where we want to be providing opportunities to hunters while protecting the flock long term,” Danks said. “We haven’t had such comprehensive numbers in decades.” Hunters should familiarize themselves with the regulations before going afield. Basics include: - Dates: General season, April 18-May 10. Youth season for hunters ages 15 and younger is April 4-5. - Shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. - Requirements: Annual hunting license and spring turkey permit (or all-in-one Sportsman’s License). Hunters 12 to 15 years old need a youth hunting license and youth turkey permit (or a Youth Sportsman’s License). Hunters 11 and under are license-exempt. Hunters under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. - Legal birds: Turkeys that are male or have visible beard.

- Bag Limits: Two per spring season, but only one per day. A limit of one bird per wildlife management area per season applies. A youth turkey permit allows hunters 12 to 15 years old to take one bird in either the spring or fall seasons. - Clothing: Hunter orange not required; recommended if carrying a harvested bird. - Tagging, recording: Fill out the Harvest Log before moving harvested bird and telecheck it by phone or online by midnight of the day it is recovered. Birds dropped off to a taxidermist or butcher must have a handmade tag with hunter’s name, phone and Telecheck confirmation number. - Leg bands: Harvested turkeys with leg bands should be reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife on the Turkey Band reporting webpage. - Baiting/feeding: Illegal to hunt turkey over bait. - Callers/Assistants: Callers and assistants who are not hunting do not need licenses or permits. For all regulations, general information and videos on turkey hunting and processing, see the Spring Turkey Hunting page or the Kentucky Spring Hunting Guide, both online at the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov). For more discussion of the coming turkey hunting season, tune in to the Kentucky Afield Podcast in the coming weeks.

Schools gain greater flexibility to purchase local farm products after passage of Senate bill

Change applies to Kentucky-grown agricultural products FRANKFORT — Kentucky schools now have an easier path to include local farm products into their meals after the passage of Senate Bill 5 (SB5), Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell announced. “Studies show farm produce from a local source has more nutrients than those that have to be shipped longer distances,” Commissioner Shell said. “Healthier, more nutrient dense meals make for a child that is more focused, alert, and ready to learn. This bill helps achieve this by decreasing some of the challenges and barriers in prior procurements of local farm fresh foods.” One of the primary goals of SB 5, sponsored by Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, was to put more locally grown produce into schools to benefit students’ nutrition. During a Senate Agriculture Committee meeting this year, Commissioner Shell testified the legislation would start the process of decentralizing the current

procurement system in schools so that farmers’ access to school markets can be bolstered. The bill allows Kentucky school districts participating in USDA Child Nutrition programs greater flexibility in directly purchasing Kentucky-grown agricultural products without being subject to certain state competitive bidding laws – while still complying with all federal requirements. In some cases, the flexibility allows local farmers to compete with large conglomerates by allowing school food purchases to award contracts when the district considers the price reasonable based on prior experience, purchase history, or other relevant information. Under SB5, the competitive bid requirement could be lifted for districts seeking to award food purchases below \$350,000. The change only applies to Kentucky-grown agricultural products – products grown, raised, or produced in Kentucky – and when the schools are participating in USDA Child Nutrition Programs. But it doesn’t exempt districts from other federal or local procurement rules.

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Surplus Property
 The City of Springfield is accepting sealed bids on the following item:
JUNKED TITLE -SOLD FOR PARTS ONLY
 2011 Chevrolet Silverado ¾ Ton Truck
 The vehicle is being sold “as is” strictly for parts and can be viewed during normal business hours. Direct inquiries to Eddie Goatley 859-481-1347. Successful bidders must haul with trailer. Submit bids in sealed envelopes marked “Sealed Bid” and mail or deliver to City of Springfield, 127 West Main St., Springfield, KY 40069 by 4:00 p.m., April 14, 2026. Bids will be opened at the City Council meeting at 4:30 p.m. the same day. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
 WASHINGTON CIRCUIT COURT
 DIVISION I
 CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00029
 PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC PLAINTIFF
 VS.
 SPALDING CHRISTOPHER MATTINGLY, DEFENDANTS
 WASHINGTON COUNTY AND CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY

By virtue of the judgment in the above styled action rendered February 18, 2026, I will sell at public auction on FRIDAY, April 17, 2026 on the steps of the Washington County Courthouse in Springfield, Kentucky on or about the hour of 3:00 P.M. to the highest and best bidder the following described real property belonging to the Defendants.
 Said property shown by Plat of Veteran’s Heights Sub-Division No. 2, recorded on Deed Book No. 91, Page 183, in the Office of the Washington County Court, and bounded and described as follows: Being Lots No. 39, No. 40 and No. 41, fronting 21 feet on Alma Avenue, and extending back 150 feet to Tract containing 10.33 Acres, sold to Mrs. Virginia C. Montgomery, and each of said Lots having a width of 22 ½ feet on line of Mrs. Virginia C. Montgomery.
 This being the same property conveyed to Spalding Christopher Mattingly, single, by deed dated June 17, 2011 and of record in Deed Book 329, Page 403 the Washington County Clerk’s Office. Parcel ID #: 18B-033
 And more commonly known as: 112 Alma Avenue, Springfield, KY 40069
 The terms of sale by the Master Commissioner shall require the purchaser of said real property to deposit a down payment equal to ten (10%) percent of the purchase price on the date of sale and to pay the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days after the sale date, to secure payment of which the purchaser shall give bond for the unpaid purchase price with good surety approved by the Master Commissioner. Said bond to bear interest at the rate of 4.7500%. The purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all of the purchase price in cash on the sale date or earlier than 30 days thereafter.
 The real property herein shall be sold free and clear of all claims of PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, and all parties to this action but shall be subject to all liens and easements of record or apparent and excepting defects in description, which an accurate survey would disclose.
 Bidders will be required to comply promptly with these terms. Possession will be granted with confirmation of the sale by the Circuit Court.
 The Plaintiff has recovered a judgment against Defendants in the amount of \$43,984.74 plus interest and seeks to recover from this sale plus cost and fees.
 For further information concerning the above sale contact the undersigned Master Commissioner at (859) 336-3766.
 DANIEL CARROLL KELLY
 MASTER COMMISSIONER

LEGAL NOTICE
 County Seeks bids for Mowing & Weedeating at Emergency Services Building
 The Washington County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for mowing & weedeating at the Washington County Emergency Services building located at 65 Honeysuckle Drive, Springfield, KY. Interested bidders should contact Mike Phillips at 859-481-8642 for details, please submit your bid to the County Judge/Executive’s office at 109 North Cross Main Street, Springfield, KY 40069. The winning bidder must submit proof of worker’s compensation and property liability insurance.
 Bids will be accepted at the Judge/Executive’s office until 9:00am on Monday, April 13th, 2026. The Washington County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. This advertisement was paid for by the Washington County Fiscal Court required to advertise in the newspaper using taxpayer dollars in the amount of \$88.00

LEGAL NOTICE
 FISCAL COURT SEEKS BIDS
 The Washington County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids on:
Rock Concrete Road Salt
Asphalt Pest service for county owned properties
 for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. Standard bid sheets can be obtained by email or by stopping by the Judge’s Office. Please call the Washington County Judge/Executive’s Office at 859-336-5410 for details. Bids must be returned to the Judge’s Office by 9:00am on Monday, April 13th, 2026. Washington County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids. This advertisement was paid for by the Washington County Fiscal Court required to advertise in a newspaper using taxpayer dollars in the amount of \$44.00.