

OCTOBER 2024

MCCREARY COUNTY EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



Imported Fire Ants- Update

In the winter of 2022, the first fire ant mound was reported, confirmed, and eliminated in McCreary County. Soon after, dozens of new mounds from southern parts of the county were reported and confirmed, followed by numerous reports in southern Whitley County. Infestations in portions of McCreary and Whitley Counties are now too extensive to eliminate, therefore homeowner management is recommended.

Fire ant management is accomplished using ant baits, broadcast insecticide applications, or direct insecticide application to mounds. Thus far in Kentucky, baiting has been the main strategy used against IFA. Fire ant baits are granules that are applied on and near the mound. The granules are then taken inside by workers to feed to the colony. This is a preferred method of management as the bait's effects are specific to ants and there is a reduction in insecticide residue present in the environment, though the time needed for success requires patience.

Broadcast applications of areas infested with ants can be done with bifenthrin, gamma-cyhalothrin, cyfluthrin, fipronil, or

IFA Update 2024

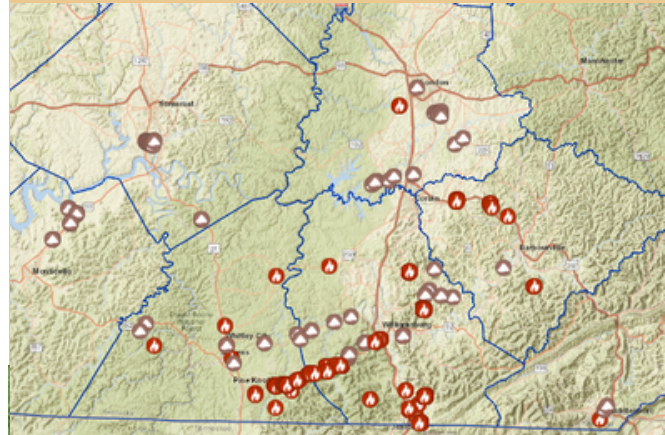
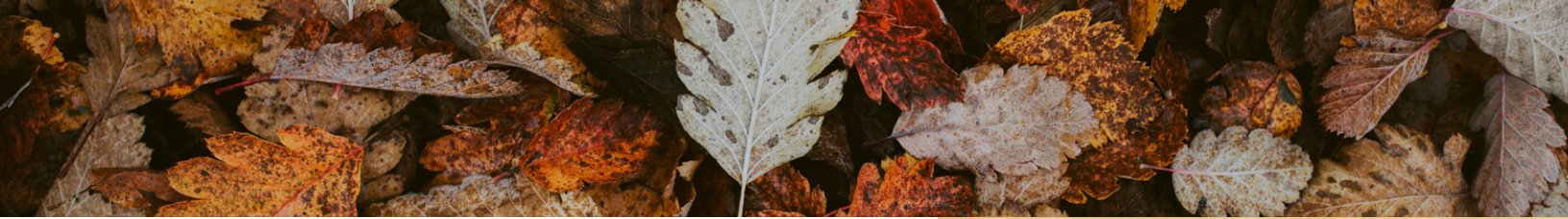


Figure 5: IFA mounds can be found near human made objects.
Photo by Joe Collins.



permethrin insecticides. But not all products can be used at all types of sites. Depending on the active ingredient, the application can be done with liquid or granule products.

These applications may last multiple months but rely on ants coming into contact with treated soil. Applications made directly to mounds may be liquid applications or dry applications as dusts or granules. Liquid products include permethrin, bifenthrin, and spinosad. Dusts include acephate, cyfluthrin, and deltamethrin and granules include cypermethrin and bifenthrin. Always read and follow label directions before using a pesticide product.

While it may not be possible to eliminate fire ants once they become established in an area, it is important to slow the spread of this invasive insect into new areas of Kentucky. Persons that find a suspect mound should contact their county Extension agent or take a picture and e-mail it to ReportAPest@uky.edu.

~ Ric Bessin and Jonathan Larson, Entomology Extension Specialists, and Joe Collins, State Nursery Inspector.

Contact Tracie Goodman, McCreary County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent, for more information.



Tracie Goodman
 ANR/4-H Extension Agent
 University of Kentucky
 McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service
 141 College St.- P.O. Box 278
 Whitley City, KY 42653
 606-376-2524
Tracie.Goodman@uky.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS MCCREARY CO. EXTENSION

Library Lunch & Learn:
 Basics of Breadmaking
Oct 8th, 12pm

McCreary Fun-Makers
Oct 8th, 4pm

NRCS Program Updates
 McCreary Cattlemen's Association
Oct 8th, 6pm

LCA Cattle A.I. School @
 Pulaski Co. Extension
Oct 21st, 10am-4pm

Healthy Eating Around the World
Oct 22nd, 1pm

Grow Appalachia:
 The Fruits of Our Labor
Oct 24th, 5:30pm

LCA Cattle Pregnancy Check
 School @ Casey County Extension
Oct 29th, 6pm

Get Healthy McCreary Hiking
 Three Forks of Beaver
Oct 30th, 10am

Call 606-376-2524 for
 more info

Follow us!



SCAN ME



October Garden Notes

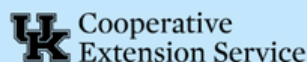
Most late season crops will be finishing up in October. As crops are harvested, remove the leftover plants and add to the compost pile or dispose of them.

Continue to think about planting a cover crop, such as rye, winter wheat, oats, vetch, or clover; though it will be less helpful the longer you wait to sow.

If you planted turnips last month, they will continue to grow. Harvest them as the roots get to a size for eating or leave some in the garden. They will continue to grow into the winter and can be harvested anytime.



Visit planeatmove.com for more info & recipes!



SOIL TESTING

Did you know soil testing is available to every Kentucky citizen through UK Cooperative Extension?

What is Soil Testing?

- Soil testing is a chemical analysis that provides valuable insights into what your soil needs to be more productive.

How does it work?

- Soil samples are collected at all of our 120 cooperative extension offices and sent to a laboratory for testing.

Why Soil Test?

- Identify previous cropping history
- Show losses of surface soil through erosion
- Provide a guideline for lime and fertilizer needs of the soil
- Analyze pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and CEC of soil.

Learn more by contacting your local county cooperative extension office or check out UK Extension publications AGR-1, AGR-16, and AGR-57.

Soil testing is FREE for McCreary County residents!

Soil probes available for checkout. Farm visits available for scheduling with Tracie Goodman, McCreary County Agriculture Extension Agent.

Fall is a great time to get this done!

For more information, contact the McCreary County Extension Office at 606-376-2524.

MCCREARY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Congratulations to our
McCreary 4-H Shooting Sports
Team on their performance at
the State Shooting Sports
Competition last month!

2nd Place Sport Rifle Team
Ages 9-11

3rd Place Sport Rifle Team
Ages 12-14

Thank you to their instructor,
Tim Grooms, for his dedication
to this team!



4-H ANR Spotlight



McCreary County Extension Office
PO Box 278
Whitley City, KY 42653
606-376-2524



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED