

# Five benefits of plant diversity

A home garden filled with a variety of plants is not just beautiful — it's smart! Having different types of plants growing together can help gardeners enjoy fresh food much of the year, help manage pests, promote pollinators and even improve the soil.

Let's explore why a diverse garden is a great idea.



DENNIS MORGESON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY AGENT FOR HORTICULTURE

## SEASONAL HARVESTS: FRESH FOOD FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR

One of the best reasons to plant a mix of vegetables, fruits and herbs is that different plants grow best in different seasons. Some plants, like lettuce and spinach, thrive in cool weather and can be harvested in spring and fall. Others, like tomatoes and peppers, love the heat and grow best in summer. By planting a variety of crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food throughout the year instead of just one season.

## INTERCROPPING: MAKING THE MOST OF SPACE

Intercropping involves planting different vegetables side by side to take advantage of the different times of maturity, heights, spread or rooting depths. A classic example of intercropping involves corn, beans and squash. A few weeks after sowing corn seeds, you plant pole beans close to the corn rows to use the corn stalks for support. The squash is a vining plant and will spread between the rows of corn and beans. As another example, you can set tomato transplants between lettuce plants; the lettuce matures and is harvested before the tomato plants grow very large.

## NATURAL DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL: CREATING HEALTHIER PLANTS

A diverse garden can also help keep insect pests under control. When a garden has only one type of plant, insects that like that plant can quickly take over. But when there are many different plants, pests have a harder time finding their favorite food. Beneficial insects such as natural

pest predators may be attracted to different plants in the garden.

Just like insects, plant diseases spread more easily when there is only one type of plant in a garden. If a disease attacks one plant, it can quickly spread to all the others of the same kind. But in a diverse garden, diseases have a harder time spreading because different plants have different levels of resistance. This helps keep the garden healthy and productive. Gardeners should also consider rearranging the placement of similar plants

from year to year to prevent insect and disease build-up in the soil.

## MORE POLLINATORS: HELPING BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

A garden with many types of flowers and vegetables attracts helpful insects like bees and butterflies. These pollinators help plants produce fruit and seeds by spreading pollen from flower to flower. Without pollinators, many fruits and vegetables wouldn't grow well. By planting a mix of flowers and food plants, gardeners can support pollinators and enjoy bigger harvests.

## BETTER SOIL HEALTH: BUILDING STRONGER PLANTS

Different plants use different nutrients from the soil. If a garden only has one type of plant, the soil can lose important nutrients quickly. However, when a variety of plants grow together, they help balance the nutrients they take from the soil. Some plants, like beans and peas, even add nitrogen back into the soil, making it healthier for future crops.

A home garden with a variety of plants is stronger, healthier and more productive. By planting different crops, gardeners can enjoy fresh food much of the year, reduce pests naturally, improve soil health, attract pollinators, and prevent diseases. Whether growing vegetables, herbs or flowers, diversity makes a garden better in every way.

So, next time you plan your garden, think about adding a mix of plants — it's a simple way to make your garden thrive!

# Week in review: Child safety, disaster prevention and veterans centers

The legislative interim continued this week with a full agenda of interim joint committees (IJC), statutory committees, and task forces meeting to discuss a wide variety of topics in preparation for the 2026 Regular Session. These discussions ranged from the digitalization of land records to the preparation of our commonwealth for future natural disasters. I have included summaries of the meetings here, but you can also watch them yourself on the legislature's YouTube page, @KYLRCommittee Meetings.

**IJC on Families and Children:** Members discussed the Center for Courageous Children discussed their summer camp programs and spoke about how they have been able to serve more than 22,000 Kentucky children with disabilities and chronic illnesses since 2008. Next, the panel discussed state guardianship and awareness initiatives being pursued by Adult Protective Services. Finally, the committee discussed the annual report of the External Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Panel, which found a decline in firearm related child injuries and fatalities but also an increase in drug related child overdose and ingestion cases.

**IJC on Local Government:** Lawmakers met with the Kentucky County Clerk's Association about electronic reporting for land records. Although nearly all counties are now engaging in electronic reporting and scanning historical documents,

the verification process for older records is time-consuming. The committee also discussed Area Development Districts. They serve as crucial councils of governments, unifying city and county administrations to collaboratively address regional needs. Additionally, members heard from the Kentucky Association of Counties and Kentucky League of Cities about local taxing sources.

**IJC on State Government:** Legislators first heard from the Kentucky Center for Statistics, an agency that collects and links data to evaluate education and workforce efforts in the commonwealth. The presentation covered the agency's history, mission, products, funding sources, and the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System. Next, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives provided members with a general overview of its organizational, operational, and budgetary structure and functions. Finally, members heard from the Kentucky Library Association about the structure and funding mechanisms of public libraries, as well as some of the work public libraries are doing to support communities.

**IJC on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection:** Members heard testimony from the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the Finance and Administration Cabinet regarding consistent and ongoing issues with the HVAC system at the Radcliff Veterans Center,

a long-term care facility. Specifically, members questioned officials why it has taken so long to be addressed, to what extent has the delay affected the facility's capacity, and when residents can expect results. Officials stated many factors contributed to delays, and the project is scheduled to be complete by March 2027. Members also heard testimony about a proposed measure to exempt veterans from the motor vehicle usage tax.

**Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board:** Legislators held their first meeting of the legislative interim this week where lawmakers received an overview of the purpose and goals of the advisory board, discussed the committee's priorities moving forward, and the guiding of policy-development over the coming months. Members also received an update on the state's Medicaid Program, reviewed recent changes under House Bill 695, and discussed the ongoing changes regarding Medicaid eligibility.

**Capital Projects and Bond Oversight:** Lawmakers met to receive an update from the Finance and Administration Cabinet on projects to enhance clean water access across the commonwealth and renovate multiple public schools in Kentucky. They approved a new lease for the UK HealthCare Speech Language Pathology Clinic and authorized renovations to the Louisville Detention Center. Members also heard from the Kentucky Communications Network Authority, and discussed efforts to safeguard continuous access to communications infrastructure statewide.

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## BAPTIST

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
336 East High St., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-0616  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.  
Wed. Prayer Mtg.-7 p.m., Wed.-7:30 p.m. BPU  
Pastor: Gene Livers

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST**  
3909 Valley Hill Road, Springfield, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.,  
Sunday Morning - 11 a.m.,  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.,  
Wed. Evening-6:30p.m. Pastor: Tobe Yankey

**SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST**  
305 Lincoln Park Road, Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-3544  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.,  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m., Evening - 6 p.m.,  
Kingdom Wed. - 6 p.m., House of Prayer - 6 p.m.;  
Youth - 6 p.m., Hispanic Ministry  
Salvador Martinez Pastor: Aaron Sherrell

**TEMPLE BAPTIST**  
312 Maplewood Ave., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-9202  
SERVICES:  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.,  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.,  
Evening - 6 p.m., Wed. Prayer,  
Youth & Children's Activities - 6 p.m.  
Pastor John McDaniel

**THOMPSONVILLE BAPTIST**  
6848 Mackville Road, Springfield, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.,  
Worship Hour-11 a.m., Sunday Evening-6 p.m.  
Pastor: Bro. Jerry Goss

**WILLISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bible Study - 9:00am  
Morning Worship - 10:00am  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:00pm  
Wednesday Children's Missions - 6:00pm  
(during school year)  
Pastor: Gary Mills

## CATHOLIC

**HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC**  
348 Rosary Heights Rd, Springfield, KY 40069  
(859) 336-3898  
SERVICES:  
Saturday - 5 pm, Sunday 10:00 am  
Pastor: Fr. Pier Giorgio Dengler

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC**  
306 Fredericktown Rd., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 284-5242  
SERVICES:

Mon., Tues., Wed. 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 7 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Augustine Judd, OP

**HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC**  
6684 Cissellville Rd., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 284-5242  
SERVICES: Thur., Fri., and Sun. 8:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Augustine Judd, OP

**ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC**  
303 W. Main St., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-3569  
SERVICES: Weekday Masses: Mon., Fri. & Sat. -

8:30 a.m.; Tues. & Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.

Sat. - 4:30 p.m., Sun. - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.,

Spanish Masses - Sunday, 2 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. David J. Farrell

**ST. ROSE CATHOLIC**  
868 Loretto Rd., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-3121  
SERVICES: Saturday - 4 p.m.

Sunday - 8 & 11:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Weekday - 8:30 a.m., Holy Days,

Please read your bulletin.

Pastor: Fr. Pier Giorgio Dengler

## CHRISTIAN

**ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN**  
Antioch Church Lane, Willisburg, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11 a.m., Sun. Night - 6 p.m.,  
Sun. Youth Mtgs. - 5 p.m., Wed. Night -7 p.m.  
Minister: Bart Price (502) 609-2278  
Parsonage : (859) 375-0009

**MACKVILLE CHRISTIAN**  
Main Street, Mackville, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sun. School - 9:30 a.m.,  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m., Evening Worship -  
6 p.m., Wed. Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. Fellowship Meal - 5:30 p.m.

## CHRISTIAN

**SPRINGFIELD CHRISTIAN**  
Corner of Main & Walnut St., Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-7457  
SERVICES: Sun. Breakfast- 9 a.m., Sunday School  
- 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship - 10:30 a.m., Sunday  
Worship - 6:30 p.m., Wed. Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor: Roland Youmans  
Mission: "Live, Serve and Witness God's plan  
of salvation to all people."

**WILLISBURG CHRISTIAN**  
2681 Lawrenceburg Rd., Willisburg, Ky.  
(859) 375-2376  
SERVICES:  
SUNDAY - Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Youth 6th-12th grade - 4:30 p.m.  
(During school year)  
WEDNESDAY - Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.  
Youth - 5th Grade and down 6:10-7:30  
(During school year)  
Minister: Lance Ladd

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**WILLISBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Main Street, Willisburg, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday Service  
Bible Study - 10 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m., 4 p.m.  
Wednesday - Bible Study - 7 p.m.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**REDEMPTION POINT CHURCH OF GOD**  
2527 Hwy. 555, Springfield, Ky. (859) 481-4111  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m., Morning  
Worship - 11 a.m., Sunday Evening - 6 p.m.,  
Wed. - 7 p.m. Pastor: Jeremy Thompson

**WILLISBURG CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY**  
4861 Brush Grove Rd., Willisburg, Ky.  
SERVICES:  
Sunday School - 10 a.m., Morning Worship -  
10:45 a.m., Sun. Evening - 6 p.m.,  
Wed. Evening - 7 p.m. Pastor: Keith Creech

**WILLISBURG CHURCH OF GOD**  
1758 Brush Grove Rd., Willisburg, Ky.  
(859) 375-4942  
SERVICES: Sunday Service - 11 a.m.,  
Bible Study - 10 a.m., Sunday Evening - 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening Service - 7 p.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Mark Speakman

## COMMUNITY

**RIVER OF LIFE**  
1250 Hwy. 555, Springfield, Ky.  
Website: www.theriverishere.com  
SERVICES: Sunday worship, 8 & 10 am;  
Wed. X-Groups (Bible Studies), 6 & 7 pm;  
Youth & Children, 7-8 pm.  
Check website, Facebook or App  
Pastor: Rev. Troy Shelton

**MT. ZION CHURCH**  
3929 Mt. Zion Road, Willisburg, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Jeff Shrout

## PRESBYTERIAN

**SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERIAN**  
140 Main St., Springfield, Ky. 859 -481-6105  
SERVICES: Sun. School - 10 a.m.  
all ages,Worship Service -11 a.m.,  
(Nursery Provided), Wed.-Bible Study-11 a.m.,  
Wed. Choir - 6 p.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Clay Stevens  
Facebook: Springfield Presbyterian Church -  
Springfield, KY. All welcome.

## PENTECOSTAL

**ANCHOR OF HOPE**  
Highway 555, Willisburg, Ky. (502) 827-1488  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.,  
Wednesday Evening 7 pm  
Pastors: Buck and Brandi Cheatham  
**FREE PENTECOSTAL**  
6143 Chaplin Rd., Willisburg, Ky.  
SERVICES: Sunday School - 10 a.m.,  
Sun. Worship - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.,  
Wednesday Service - 7 p.m.  
Pastor: Thomas Hogue, 606-231-7691

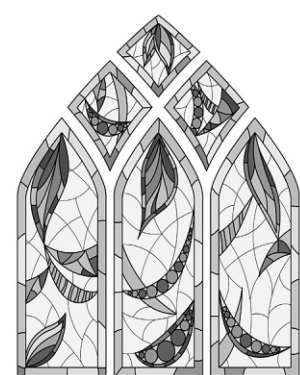


**CAREY & SON FUNERAL HOME**

215 E. Main  
Springfield, Ky.  
(859) 336-3856

**HEART OF KENTUCKY INSURANCE**

Agents:  
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112 East McChord Street  
Springfield, Ky.  
(Behind Main St. Springfield  
State Bank Drive-thru)  
(859) 336-9371



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221 E. Main Street  
Springfield, Ky.  
859-336-3836

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Bardstown Rd. (859) 336-5955  
Willisburg (859) 375-4936