

EXTENSION NOTES

from Jonathan Oakes

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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Seven Simple Steps to Keep Your Indoor Plants Thriving through Colder Months

Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture Extension Professor

Want to keep your indoor plants thriving through winter? Here's a cozy guide to winter plant care—with tips, tricks and a few unexpected perks of green-ing up your space.

Winter doesn't mean saying goodbye to your green thumb. With a bit of know-how, your in-door plants can flourish even when the weather outside is frightful. Plus, having plants around isn't just about aesthetics — they boost mood, purify air and bring a sense of calm to your home.

1. Lighten them up. Winter brings shorter days and weaker sun-light, so your plants will benefit from being placed in the sunni-est spots available. Try moving them closer to windows and rotat-ing them every week or two to ensure even light exposure. If you're relocating plants to windows with direct sunlight, proceed with caution—some species can tolerate it, but they should be gradually acclimated over several days to prevent stress. For plants that thrive in direct sun, this slow transition helps avoid leaf burn. If natural light is limited in your space,

consider using grow lights; LED options are both energy-efficient and effective.

2. Water wisely and pause the fertilizer. Many plants are in rest mode during winter due to less light, so reduce water and skip the fertilizer until spring. Overwatering is a common winter mistake. Instead, check soil moisture by stick-ing your finger about an inch deep—if it's dry, water thoroughly. Many houseplants may only need water-ing every two to three weeks during winter but check them often as the interior climate can be quite dry. Holding back fertilizer for a few months helps prevent nutrient buildup and keeps your plants from getting leggy or stressed.

3. Mind the tem-perature and humid-ity. Keep your plants away from cold drafts, radiators and vents. Sudden temperature changes can stress or even kill them. Aim for a stable environment with moderate humid-ity. Grouping plants or placing them on pebble trays with water can help increase humidity levels. If pebble trays are used, ensure the bottom of plant pots is above the water level in the tray.

4. Check for pests. If outside plants come indoors, be sure to

inspect them for pests like aphids, scale or spider mites. Wipe leaves with a damp cloth and consider neem oil or insecticidal soap if needed. Always read and follow product labels carefully.

5. Grow something new. Winter is a great time to experiment with indoor gardening. Microgreens—tiny ed-ible greens like broccoli or beets—are easy to grow in shallow con-tainers with clean pot-ting soil. Also, they're

ready in 12–14 days and packed with nutrients. You can also try garlic greens, scallions, carrots, or herbs like basil and parsley. Just make sure your containers have good drainage and use organic fertilizer for herbs. These micro-greens are also suited to areas with lower light conditions. 6. Prolong your poinset-tias. For this season's poinsettias, choose plants with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center of the colorful leaf-like bracts that are com-monly referred to as the flowers. Water the plant when it feels dry and discard excess water in the saucer under the plant. Place the plant in a bright, naturally lit location and gradually introduce some direct sunlight. Keep the plant out of drafty areas and away from appliances that produce heat. Poinsettias will ben-efit from winter fertil-izer treatments. Apply houseplant fertilizer according to the label directions before the new year.

7. The health ben-efits are real. Indoor plants do more than

look pretty. Studies show that being around greenery can lower blood pressure and in-crease feelings of well-being. In the gloom of winter, that's a gift worth growing. So go ahead—give your plants a little TLC this winter. They'll return the favor with beauty, freshness and a touch of nature's magic right in your liv-ing room.

To learn more about winter indoor plant care, contact the Russell County Extension office.

Announcements

CAIP Receipts ac-cepted – December 11, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Please call 270-866-4477 to make an appointment. If no ap-pointments are sched-uled, Wanda Miick, Program Coordinator, will not be at the Extension Office.

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with re-spect to education and employment and au-thorization to provide research, education information and other services only to indi-viduals and institutions that function without regard to 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 expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veter-an status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Two fire departments respond to blaze



Firefighters on the scene of a blaze Friday which damaged a mobile home, garage, and several vehicles.

The Russell Springs Volunteer Fire Department (RSVFD) responded Friday to a structure and ve-hicle fire on Cleveland Road.

Upon arrival, firefighters found 13

vehicles, one mobile home, and a garage fully involved.

Given the size of the fire, Russell Springs Volunteer Fire Department requested mutual aid from the Eli Volunteer Fire

Department. Both departments worked side-by-side to bring the fire under control.

*Information pro-vided by the RSVFD

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Community Calendar

Hanging of the Greens at JFUMC

Jamestown First United Methodist Church Hanging of the Greens service will be held Sunday, December 7th, at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us in this annual event! Church is located at 157 N. Main St., Jamestown.

“Seeking the Christ Child”

Fairview Separate Baptist Church, at the Junction of 55 & 379, will have a Christmas Program, “Seeking the Christ Child,” follow-ing with a live Nativity, December 7th, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend the inside program and visit the live nativity out-side at the end of the program.

“Seeking the Christ Child”

Fairview Separate Baptist Church, at the Junction of 55 & 379, will have a Christmas Program, “Seeking the Christ Child,” follow-ing with a live Nativity, December 7th, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend the inside program and visit the live nativity out-side at the end of the program.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Accepting applications for part-time positions in Adair, Clinton, Cumberland, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne, and Whitley. Must be 55+ years of age, meet limited income guidelines, be unemployed and looking for em-ployment. Call Connie Foster at 606-210-1129 or Jolene Aleman at 270-566- 5316 or visit www. goodwill.org/SCSEP Let us help you re-enter the workforce!

D.A.V. Meeting

The D.A.V. meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M. CST at 155 Owentown School Road Russell Springs, KY

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weight loss sup-port program whose goal is to help men/ women/ youth to become healthier by losing weight in a sensible manner. The local chapter, TOPS 396 Russell Springs meets Mondays at 5pm at Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson Street in Russell Springs. Online memberships and virtual chapter memberships are also available. Yearly member-ship dues are less than \$50, first visit is free. Questions? Text/ call Bonnie, chapter leader, 270-566-1284 or visit TOPS.Club.org

God’s Food Pantry of Russell County

God’s Food Pantry of Russell County God’s Food Pantry of Russell County is open Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:00-4:00 PM. The pan-try is located at 101 Brian Walters Dr. In Russell Springs. Call for information 270-866-7992.

Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) Men

Monday nights at SPARC(Sobriety, Peace, Awareness, and Recovery) 270-585-5377 at 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM, First Baptist Church, Russell Springs, KY. Thursday nights at 5:30 P.M., The Springs, 226 Jamestown St., Russell Springs. Monday nights at 6:00 P.M. Solid Rock Church 189 West Drive Russell Springs.

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Russell Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court shall proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder at public auction the below properties on **Friday, December 5, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., CT, Russell District Courtroom, Russell County Judicial Center, Jamestown, Kentucky.**

Said properties shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon (unless otherwise indicated) the following terms and conditions:

A) For the purchase price, the Purchaser(s) must pay in full by cash or good check on the date of sale or the Purchaser(s) may pay ten (10%) down on the day of sale and shall execute a good and sufficient purchase money bond, with approved surety thereon, equal to the balance of the purchase price payable to the Master Commissioner within thirty (30) days. Any such purchase money bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment and shall be a lien upon the property sold as additional security for the payment of the balance of the purchase price. The Master Commissioner's bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears from the date of sale until paid in full. **In the event the successful bidder is not paying the full amount of the purchase price on the date of sale, purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon.** In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the Judgment amount.

B) Purchaser shall be required to pay property taxes for current tax year and all taxes thereafter, for which the Purchaser(s) shall receive no credit against the purchase price.

C) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Russell County Court Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s).

The Master Commissioner Sale/Deed is not a warranty of good title. Possession shall be given to the Purchaser(s) with the delivery of the Master Commissioner's Deed thereto. Purchaser(s) will assume and be responsible for all risks of loss to the premises upon acceptance of their bid by the Master Commissioner at the Master Commissioner's Sale.

Bidder should examine the records of the Russell Circuit Clerk and the Russell County Clerk prior to the sale for further information. Any statements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over advertised material. Bidder shall be prepared to comply promptly with these terms.

(Sale bonds will bear interest at the rate of Judgment entered in each separate action)

SALE NO. 1

Property address: **Lots 7 and 22, Section H, Lily Creek Resort, Jamestown, KY Map ID: 047-90-08-007.00**
CENTURION HOLDINGS, INC. vs. MATT HOLTSBERRY (a.k.a. Matthew R. Holtsberry), UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MATT HOLTSBERRY, RUSSELL COUNTY INVESTMENTS, LLC., LILY CREEK HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., AND, THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF RUSSELL Civil Action No. 25-CI-00182 Amount to be raised: \$3,547.59

SALE NO. 2

Property address: **441 Little Louisville Road, Jamestown, KY 42629 Map ID: 047-90-14-063.00**
JOYCE VERSINO vs. MARTIN BUDDE, SALLY BUDDE, CENTURION HOLDINGS, LLC, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF RUSSELL Civil Action No. 22-CI-00172 Amount to be raised: \$4,884.56

M GAIL WILSON, MASTER COMMISSIONER, RUSSELL CIRCUIT COURT