

MY VIEWS

Harvest vegetables daily, at their peak

One day missed in the vegetable garden can mean a big harvest, literally. All of a sudden, or so it seems, your zucchini is the size of a torpedo, and beans are bulging in the pod. Some vegetables need attention daily; others can be picked every couple of days.

Summer squash and zucchini definitely need to be checked each day because their growth rate is rather fast. Of course, each vegetable needs to be assessed based on the characteristics of the variety but generally speaking the ideal size at harvest for patty pan is 2-3 inches; yellow crooked neck varieties about 6 inches; and zucchini about 8 inches. Our squash and zucchini are doing really well this year so I have become very accustomed to the

nuances of being a bit too big. Mostly it means thick skinned and seedy for yellow crook neck but not bad with the romenescos



JENEEN WICHE

types which tend to be less so on both accounts. My big romenescos get shredded for zucchini bread or diced, boiled and turned into "Country Club Squash" casserole, an old family favorite. Green beans should be picked every day, more so because it is easy to miss about half the harvest because it is hiding beneath the foliage! My beautiful and delicious French filet bean 'Taverna' are at peak when they are a slender 3 inches. The pole bean variety 'Fortex' peaks a bit bigger at 5 inches...the key with green beans is to know your variety and harvest before any beans start to bulge within the

pod. Peppers are rather agreeable. The best indication that any given variety is ripe is that the skin starts to take on a high gloss. Green sweet bell peppers, however, will ripen to even sweeter red peppers if you leave them on the plant longer. Hot peppers can be harvested at any time, really, but the hotter the weather is and the bigger they become the hotter they seem to be as well!

Harvest your tomatoes when they take on an even color. Tomatoes will continue to ripen, of course, but they are tastier if most of it occurs on the plant. Don't put them in a sunny window to further ripening; this will just make them mealy. A basket or bowl on the counter is best for storage. Because tomatoes ripen due to a gas produced by the fruit (not by sunlight, the foliage of the plant needs

the sunlight not the tomato) you can expedite ripening by putting the tomato in a bag to contain the gas.

We also have loads of cucumbers on the vine this summer. The thin 'Orient Express' that are about 10 inches are great for fresh snacking. I have taken to harvesting most of the cucumbers very small for fresh eating. If they get away from me and grow to over 12 inches they get turned into cucumber soup and gazpacho. These cold soups freeze well, too.

Watermelon is ready when the skin losses its high gloss, the belly of the melon turns yellowish and the foliage and tendrils closest to the melon die back (and it thumps when thumped). Corn tells us it is ready when the silks have browned

out, not sure how the raccoons determine peak ripeness, though!

The goal is to harvest vegetables at their peak. Flavor, texture, nutrition and storage ability will be determined, for better or worse, based on when you harvest. When you consider plants like gourds, winter squash, sweet potatoes, potatoes, onions and garlic understand that these must be harvested at the right time (and air-cured in some cases) for them to last longer than a week!

Gourds should be left on the vine until after frost, wait until everything has dried naturally

and listen for rattling seeds before you harvest. Winter squash needs to ripen and cure on the vine into fall, as well. Just after a light frost and definitely before a hard frost is usually about right, the skin needs to toughen up first. Sweet potatoes, too, should stay in the ground until a light frost nips the vines a bit.

LEGAL

Bullitt County Public Health Taxing District and Bullitt County Health Department Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026 published in accordance with KRS Chapter 424 and KRS 65A.080. The adopted budget, financial statements, most recent audit and a listing of Board Members of the Bullitt County Health Department may be inspected by the general public at 181 Lees Valley Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165 between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday. The records may also be viewed on the website of the Department for Local Government's SPGE Public Portal at www.kydlgweb.ky.gov. This advertisement is paid with tax dollars at a cost of \$30.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to KRS 65A.080(2) the financial records of Mt. Washington Fire Protection District are located at Station One, 772 N. Bardstown Road, Mt. Washington, KY 40047. The adopted budget, financial statements and most recent audit reports are available for public inspection and may be examined Monday through Friday during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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For auction date and time please call the office at 502-225-1010. All vehicles will be sold at auction within 7 days to 21 days per state law.

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Owner: John Michael J. Atalig
Lien Information: Navy FCU

Vehicle: 2009 Nissan Murano
VIN: JNBAZ18W49W155772
Owner: Sonya Parks
Lien Holder: Heights Finance

Make/Model: Volkswagen Passat
Year: 2017
VIN: 1WUAT7A36HC029989
Owner: Flemming, Anthony
Lien Byrdier Finance LLC DBA CNAC

Vehicle 2026 Big Tex trailer
VIN 16V3F4124T642264
Owner Loaded, BS
Lien Holder: Clicklease TTL

2009 Kia Optima
VIN: KNAGE228095292969
Owner: Mr. Robert Pettijohn
Lien Holder: Industrial Federal Credit Union

Vehicle Details: 2011 Ford Fusion
VIN 3FAHP0HA7BR198872
owners Traci S. Sowell or
Larry W. Robinson-Battle Jr.
Lien Information: ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GR

2012 Dodge Charger
VIN 2C3CDXCT1CH303907
Owner: Ramone L. Sloum
Lienholder: Professional Finance

Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Rogue
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