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As spring approaches, many homeowners begin to think about their yard's landscape. The winter months can be damaging to trees and shrubs. To ensure healthy

Winter & Early Spring Pruning Tips

spring plants, homeowners may want to selectively prune the trees and shrubs around their home. Do not prune for the sake of pruning, make sure you have a valid reason for pruning before you begin. Remember to avoid topping your shade trees as this will hurt the overall health of the tree.

Pruning during the late winter months allows for the removal of damage caused by winter winds and precipitation. The wounds caused by pruning heal most quickly this time of year just as new growth is emerging on the plant.

Pruning also allows removal of diseased, crowded or hazardous branches. When pruning trees, the size

of the tree does not need to be reduced too much in one season. Limit the pruning amount to one-fourth of the tree's volume. Start by thinning out branches by cutting them off close to the tree's trunk or a large limb.

Leave the base of the branch, known as the collar, intact. Cutting the collar will prevent the plant from growing over the wound caused from pruning. Pruning in this manner allows for a healthy tree that is more open to sunlight and air movement. If the branch is cut back only part way, there will likely be a crowded regrowth of new branches where the cut was made. Do not seal or paint the wounds resulting from pruning because this will only delay the tree's healing process.

With spring-flowering shrubs, rejuvenation pruning may be needed, and the time to prune is fast approaching. The best time to prune these plants is right after they have flowered. If the shrub is pruned before it blooms, the buds have been removed before their flowers were enjoyed. When pruning is done after blooming, the flowers will have been enjoyed, and the plant can recover, grow and produce more buds for flowers next spring.

Rejuvenation pruning removes one-third of the shrub's oldest growth. This pruning entails selecting the thickest, darkest and unhealthiest stems or branches

and cutting them back. Stems should be cut back to soil level and branches to the point of intersection with the shrub's main trunk. This ensures that only the youngest, most productive wood (that which produces the most/best flowers) remains a part of the shrub. Shrubs that will bloom during the summer months can also be pruned during the early spring.

Pruning is not limited to a certain time of year. Homeowners can prune at any time if they notice branches and limbs that are damaged either from weather, disease or insects. Pruning is invigorating for the plants in a home landscape so one should not necessarily think of pruning as a means of size control. If you have a plant that has grown out-of-bounds, pruning may not be the answer - you may need to consider replacing the plant with one that will reach a smaller size at maturity.

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service's on-line data base, <http://www.GardenData.org>, can help answer many of pruning and other gardening/landscape questions. To speak to an agent or obtain more information, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Kentucky - College of Agriculture



**Estill County
4-H Youth Development**
Isaac L. Hollon
Estill County Extension Office

4-H Shooting Sports Sign-Ups

4-H Shooting Sports Sign-Up and Organizational Meeting will be Thursday, February 27, 2014 at the Estill County Extension Office. The 4-H Shooting Sports Club is open to all youth, ages 9-18 (as of January 1, 2014). Parents are required to attend meetings with their children. If you need further information or are interested in learning more about what is going on in 4-H, please call the Estill County Extension Office at 723-4557.

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Agriculture Events

Through March 21, 2014

Strawberry Plants & More

The Estill County Cooperative Extension Service will be taking orders for reasonably priced and good quality strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, asparagus, and Candy onion plants through March 21st. Orders must be prepaid with delivery expected early April. If you are interested or need more information, call 606-723-4557.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Richmond FSA Service Center
1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2
Call 888-758-6909

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Deadline Near

The USDA Farm Service Agency's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance similar to crop insurance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters. The upcoming deadlines to file an application for natural disaster protection under the NAP are March 1 and March 15.

The crops for March 1 deadline are: Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, Millet, Mixed forage, Teff

The crops for March 15 deadline are: Asparagus, Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Corn, Corn-Hybrid Seed, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Gourds, Greens, Herbs, Honeydew, Leeks, Lettuce, Okra, Onions, Parsnip, Peas, Peppers, Popcorn, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radish, Sorghum, Sorghum-Grain, Soybeans, Squash, Strawberries, Sunflowers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Turnips, and Watermelons.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using Form CCC-471, and pay the applicable service fee at the FSA office where their farm records are maintained. The application and service fee must be filed by the application closing dates.

Applications require a service fee equal to \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for all counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the service fee. To qualify for an administrative service fee waiver, the producer must meet established criteria. For more information contact your local FSA office. Many farmers qualify as limited resource and obtain free coverage for their crops.

NAP coverage normally begins 30 days after payment of fees and continues through the expected harvest period. Accepted applications provide catastrophic protection for loss levels that exceed 50% of the approved yield for the crop unit. A unit includes all the crop acreage in the county in which the producer has a unique interest. Loss payments are calculated on 55% of the average established market price for the covered crop.

Producers with NAP coverage are reminded to file a notice of loss within 15 days of a natural disaster affecting your crop or when the loss becomes apparent. Contact your local FSA office at 1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2 in Richmond at 859-624-1980 for additional NAP closing dates. Producers should always check with their local FSA office for specific crops and other application closing dates.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

The nectar and pollen of the **blue wood aster** attracts bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Butterfly caterpillars, leaf beetles, leaf-mining fly and fruit fly larvae, stink bugs, lace bugs, aphids and leafhoppers feed on its foliage, as do other creatures such as rabbits, groundhogs, deer and livestock. Wild turkeys and ruffed grouse eat both the foliage and seeds, and some moth caterpillars feed on its flowers, foliage, young seeds, stems and roots.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.illinoiswildflowers.info

Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic]
by Terry Stickels

Pendulum Vase Scarecrow
Tractor Lighthouse
Telephone

One of the words above doesn't belong with the others for a simple, straightforward reason. Which one is it? HINT: Think about function.

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 9

BROWN FARM MEATS

located inside Discount Tobacco
389 Richmond Road in Irvine, KY
M-F, 9-6, Saturday, 9-Noon
(606) 643-5107 or (606) 643-5758
Kentucky Proud Certified
•Home-Grown •Corn-Fed •USDA-Inspected
Call for pickup or delivery! We sell any size quantities!

Products

Boston Butt Pork Roast . . . \$3.00/Lb.
(Great for Pulled Pork)
Sausage . . . \$3.00/Lb.
(Hot, Medium or Mild)
Cured Ham . . . \$3.50/Lb.
(Whole or Sliced)
Ham Steak . . . \$3.50/Lb.
Ham Cutlets . . . \$3.50/Lb.
(Similar to cube steak, only ham)
Bacon . . . \$4.00/Lb.
Jowl Bacon . . . \$3.50/Lb.
Pork Tenderloin . . . \$4.00/Lb.
Pork Chops . . . \$3.50/Lb.
Spare Ribs . . . \$3.50/Lb.
Country Style Ribs . . . \$3.50/Lb.
Baby Back Pork Ribs . . . \$3.00/Lb.
Pork Burgers . . . \$3.50/Lb.
(Ground, pattied pork with no seasoning)
Bratwursts . . . \$3.50/Lb.

Bundle Packages

1/4 Processed Hog . . . \$115.00
1/2 Processed Hog . . . \$210.00
Whole Processed Hog . . . \$400.00

Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| A | L | P | Y | M | P | B | O | L | U | Y | A | O |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| E | U | A | W | K | S | O | I | V | U | E | W | A |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| E | C | E | A | I | H | O | L | F | R | S | I | R |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| L | E | D | E | L | O | X | F | D | O | C | R | E |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| C | Y | L | H | H | O | A | E | P | U | E | M | P |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| I | Y | R | S | E | E | F | S | U | S | E | G | C |
| 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| A | U | I | L | N | R | A | E | R | E | C | D | H |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three **L**'s, **X** for the two **O**'s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

FLPEG UHGPLEGSLP HR
RHQBUX UEJFSEFP DKELFPV
AHGK QPEJHJF GN GKP
SGQNRG VPFLPP.
- PILE BNSJV

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals G

WVOA ZVBWC AEEW H
LBNUKGWAF PVFGC GNA MAGNZC
HOLVWHQZA PV WUNGOQZA.
PKAC UGM'P QA QAGP!

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Puzzle Answers

February 26, 2014

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

Riddle Answer: A palm tree.

FEAR & KNOT

answer

Letter Box

Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | M | R | H | Y | N | A | D | I |
| D | N | A | B | R | I | H | Y | M |
| I | H | Y | D | M | A | R | N | B |
| A | D | B | I | N | R | Y | M | H |
| M | Y | N | A | H | B | I | R | D |
| R | I | H | Y | D | M | N | B | A |
| H | B | M | R | I | Y | D | A | N |
| N | R | D | M | A | H | B | I | Y |
| Y | A | I | N | B | D | M | H | R |

Even Exchange

answers

- Wiggle, Giggle
- Swore, Sword
- Pastel, Pasted
- Ditch, Dutch
- Career, Carter
- Lather, Letter
- Major, Manor
- Austin, Austen
- Elate, Elite
- Baron, Bacon

DAYTONA 500 WINNERS

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

CryptoQuote

answer

Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost degree.
- Ezra Pound

CryptoQuip

answer

Some lousy eggs I purchased today are nearly impossible to scramble. They can't be beat!

Bible Trivia Answers

Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

ANSWERS: (1) Neither; (2) Abraham; (3) Mattaniah; (4) Jehoiakim; (5) David; (6) Ahaz