

Ragweed foe to allergy sufferers and farmers

Ragweed is a common foe both to allergy sufferers and to crop producers. In late summer, the plant produces allergic reactions associated with plant pollens, often ragweed plants. Ragweed also has the potential to severely interfere with crop production and greatly reduce crop yield.

The phrase "hay fever" often is misleading. It might seem that hay fever is caused by cut hay, however, you can usually blame those reactions on ragweed. Ragweeds are native species that grow throughout the United States. Individuals who are sensitive to the plant's pollen are usually very aware of its presence. When plants begin to flower in August and an early September, the species called lance-airborne pollen in the leaf ragweed. All these

species are summer annuals and they only reproduce by seed. Common ragweed is widespread and common of the ragweed species in the United States and can grow up to 30 inches in height. These common plants tend to be slightly branched, but are best distinguished by their deeply divided leaves with a lace-like appearance. As the plant matures, slender stalks near the top of the plant contain green flowers that are not showy, but they do produce a bountiful crop of yellow pollen.

Giant ragweed matures into a much larger plant compared to common ragweed. Kentucky farmers sometimes call it "horseweed" because it can grow up to 10 feet in height. Its leaves are

Ky. Beef Conference October 27, 2009

The next Ky. Beef Conference "Planning Today for Tomorrow's Market," is scheduled for October 27, 2009. It will be held at the Fayette County Extension beginning at 9:00 a.m. with registration and lasting until 5:00 p.m.

This year's conference will feature the most up-to-date information on beef marketing with an emphasis on herd management and marketing options. A representative from Cattle-PAX, Randy Black, Dr. Larry Hollis, DVM, Kansas State University Extension Specialist and UK Extension Specialist, Dr. Cory Walters, Dr. Jeff Lehnkuhler will be the presenters. Topics to be covered are:

- Marketing Overview and Long-Term Marketing Trends Related to Beef
- Feed Grain Outlook
- Nutrition for Healthy Calf to Market
- Management Practices that Influence Marketability of the Stocker and Cow/Calf Herd
- Marketing Strategies for 2009-2010.

Registration is \$10.00 per person to cover the cost of a buffet lunch and refreshments. For more information and to pre-register, contact your County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources by October 16, 2009.

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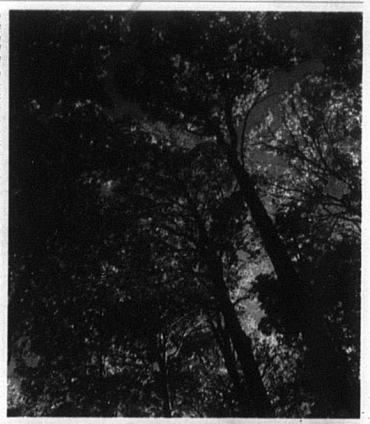
Fall in Kentucky

By Stefanie Gaither

As I stand looking at this magnificent view with chilly wind singing wildly around me and trees dancing to the music of the State Nature Preserve, I cannot help but wonder why anyone would need to drive anywhere to experience this. Kentucky is beautiful in the fall and our area is particularly gorgeous. Hints of color are just starting to peek out among the leaves of some trees while others have already begun the shedding process. There are select areas of the park where the leaves are already raining down on you in the wind as you stand to admire them, but for most of the trees this process has only just begun. Soon bright, brilliant all across the rolling hills of Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park.

Hickory, Ash, Beech, & Birch may be responsible for the yellow and orange shades. Some types of oaks produce the hues of brown. Obviously I am of the many benefits of having a park that also has many acres of oaks produce the hues of brown. Obviously I am simplifying this entire process and while some park visitors may enjoy identifying the various species of trees out of the dozens of varieties that exist at the park, many more people simply enjoy viewing the stunning landscape these trees all work together to create.

Autumn brings shorter days, less sunlight, and cool nights signaling to the trees that winter is approaching. In preparation for the cold, cruel months ahead the trees begin shutting down their "food making factories" or leaves as we call them. The result of this process is the vibrant colors we see in the fall. Trees tend to fall into identifying color palettes if you wish to look closely. For instance Maples, Dogwoods, and Persimmons are typically responsible for many of the red and purple leaves.



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