

Get To Treating Those Lawn Weeds

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you have not yet sprayed for lawn weeds there is still time. The lawn weeds that we are going after now are those that bloom really pretty in the spring. We're talking dandelions, speedwell, henbit and chickweed here. Start looking at areas in your yard where the grass is thin. Look for tiny little plants with just a leaf or two. They don't look like much now, but oh baby just wait until April! Or rather, don't wait until April as they will be much harder to kill at that time and you're liable to end up curling tree leaves all over the place! By treating in late October and early November, essentially any time before the temperature has gotten down into the low 20s for several nights in a row, you will have great control and little risk of vapor drift. Keep in mind though that as temperatures drop, weeds will take longer to show damage and you really need to pay close attention to temperatures. I really prefer using liquid products over granular weed and feed type products this late in the season. Granular products will work, but you may not know it until next spring. Products like Trimec, Wed-B-Gon and Weed-out usually contain a combination of products like 2,4-D, dicamba and MCPP. If you want to see a little faster action, especially on small plants, look for something that also contains carfentrazone, often sold as weed free zone or speedzone. Keep in mind that you really want to have air temperatures above 50 degrees when you spray and you want it to stay above 50 for at least 3 to 4 hours to make sure that there's enough photosynthesis to absorb the spray! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Normal Needle Drop in Pines

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Extending the Garden Season

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In most years, with a little bit of planning, we can extend the gardening season into late November or even early December. Now, don't think of trying that with your tomatoes or peppers because it just isn't going to happen. Once we finally get that thermometer down into the mid 20s, those plants are gone. Some folks have seen some freezing weather already while other more sheltered gardens are still plugging along. But we have a group of cool hardy vegetable crops that with a little extra effort can keep growing for another month, barring really bizarre weather. Keep in mind that while the average first frost of the season is October 18th, we don't expect average nightly temperatures below freezing until mid November and temperatures down into the mid-20s every night shouldn't occur until Thanksgiving. Cool season garden crops like collards, Irish potatoes bibb lettuce, leaf lettuce, radishes, spinach and swiss chard can withstand temperatures into the upper 20s before they show damage. Crops like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, carrots, turnip and kale can take temperatures into the low 20s before they get hammered. But since we have ground that is still warmer than cool evening air, we can use floating row cover, which is a meshy gauzy cloth, to place over the rows of cool season crops and gain a few more degrees of hardiness thereby extending the season. You may have to use some wire stakes to hold it in place if there's windy weather, but you can really extend your season of fresh home grown veggies this way!

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