

## Rose Winterkill

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I have a few hybrid tea roses and a few more miniature roses. I affectionately refer to them as Darwin roses, not because any of them are actually the cultivar Charles Darwin, but because I pay them so little attention that it's merely survival of the fittest! I was out working in the yard last week and was struck by the fact that I needed to prune back my hybrid tea roses. Keep in mind that I had two cultivars that I really hadn't done much to the last several years. The roses were 5 to 6 feet tall. Last year at this time I had 5 foot canes with flower buds on the top of them. But this is a different year and certainly a different winter. Most of my rose canes froze to within a few inches of the ground! They all appear to be coming up above the graft - the simplest way to know if the new shoots are from above the graft is to see if they bloom properly in a few more weeks. If they grow and grow and grow and never bloom, then they froze down to the graft and you have root sprouts coming up and you need to pull those roses out. Since I am taking so much dead wood off them this year I will actually do some serious fertilization. I'll try to remove everything except 3 to 5 major canes and cut those down to about 6 inches. Then I'll work some fertilizer with systemic fungicide and insecticide into the soil around the base of the plant. When we go a week without water, I'll also be watering them. Remember, to adequately water a rose bush, don't sprinkle it and don't stand there with a hose. Turn the hose on a trickle and place it at the base of each plant for 30 to 60 minutes. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

What's Wrong with my Lawn?

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've had a lot of phone calls this spring about lawn problems. The first thing that I have noticed, in looking at these lawns, is that the turf has been slow to green up this spring because of the wintery weather. If you didn't fertilize at all last fall, this is especially going to be the case, so a little patience is in order. The other thing is that we've had some pretty rough weather, i.e. hot and dry, the past 3 years and it's been carrying through at least the early part of spring. Grass is stressed right now and I was seeing drought stress in lawns last week. I've also seen some actual winterkill in lawns this spring. This tends to be concentrated in areas near curbs and most often when a lot of edging was being done. In some cases, areas that homeowners thought was dead was actually Bermuda grass that had crept in and simply hasn't gotten warm enough to start growing yet. We've also seen dead spots in yards that seem to correspond with winter grain mite issues. The problem is that usually by the time we see the damage, the mites are long gone. I feel pretty certain that this is the case in some situations because a homeowner recently brought in a batch of winter grain mites that had crawled under the kitchen window and got stranded in their bathtub. As I said at the start, this has been a very tough three to four years for plants in general and lawns especially. A brief 4 weeks of heavy rain late last summer can't make up for all the heat and drought. If you have some thin spots in your yard and you don't have a sprinkler system, you may just want to wait a while before overseeding! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Sandbur Control

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There are two lawn weeds that people will variously call sandbur. One is a broadleaf vining plant with little yellow flowers and nasty seeds with one or two long sharp spines. This is puncturevine and we're not talking about it today. The other one looks like a grass plant (which it is) but when it puts on seed late in the year it is a round bur with lots of sharp spines and these burs get in your socks, shoelaces and pant cuffs. This is the true sandbur, sometimes called longspine or grass sandbur, and this is what we'll talk about. Sandburs are a warm season annual grass with a growing cycle very similar to crabgrass. They'll start germinating anytime now. They love sunny hot areas with poor grass growth and bare soil. They thrive along roads, driveways and sidewalks. They are somewhat controlled by crabgrass preventers, but since it's a larger seed, they can sometimes overpower many preventers. The preventers Pendimethalin and Barricade have shown pretty good control of sandbur. If you had sandburs in a location last year, you can expect to have them again in the same location so make sure you've applied a preventer. The next step is to just assume that you will have seedlings coming along anyway and use one of the post emerge crabgrass killers about once a month. Where you have had sandburs before, I would treat with a crabgrass killer on June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and August 15<sup>th</sup> to control the escapes. And then next fall, work to get a thicker stand of grass because sandburs do not thrive with a thick lawn that is mowed TALL. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.