

## Gardening With Chuck for January 26 - February 1, 2015

### Nice Weather Unless You're a Fruit Tree

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We've had some really nice weather the past couple of weeks. I'll be the first to admit that any time you can get daytime highs in the 50s during January, I'm not going to gripe - it sure helps to balance out some of the colder weather we had earlier in the month and lessens the old heating bill. And while you and me may enjoy this nice weather, it isn't a good thing for fruit trees. Here's the bottom line, by late December and early January, given normal amounts of cold weather, fruit trees have reached maximum cold hardiness and dormancy. From that point on, the best thing that can happen, from a fruit production point of view, is normal temperatures and lots of cloudy weather. Once we start to have several days in a row of sunny weather and temperatures 50 and above, trees, all trees, will start sap flowing up. With sap flowing up, buds start to swell and many times the first buds that swell are the flowering buds, especially for any tree that blooms first thing in the spring, BEFORE leaves come out. One of the most obvious places to see this is on maple trees and to a lesser extent, elm trees. Unfortunately, buds can't reverse growth. Each warm day moves them on a little closer and that causes them to lose winter hardiness or frost and freeze resistance. Unfortunately there is nothing you can do to stop them. At the rate we are going now we will have apricot blooms by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. If that happens, we will have freezing weather after the that and the blossoms will be killed. In advance planning, site location does help, but too late now! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

## All America Selections Part 1

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 been waiting for these announcements for several weeks. I'm always so excited to see the lists of the latest All-Americans. Those that have risen well above the average and have consistently performed at a different level should always be recognized! Oh, if you think I'm talking about athletes, I'm not. I'm talking about plants - vegetables and flowers. The All America Selection organization releases the annual all America selections list every January based on how they did in test gardens across the country. Only those that show consistent performance in multiple locations and multiple years will rise to the top as all Americans. One thing to keep in mind is that often times it will be a year or two because enough seed becomes available for all America selections to be readily available. Today, we'll talk about flowers. This year's All Americas include two impatiens, one petunia and one salvia. Impatiens bounce pink flame may just look like other impatiens but it has excellent downy mildew resistance. And lots of bright pink flowers. Impatiens SunPatiens has excellent heat and humidity tolerance and again, good downy mildew resistance. Petunia Trilogy Red is a very bright red petunia with large flowers that hybrid petunias are known for. This one will be good in containers, baskets or beds, tolerates full sun and high heat well and is reported to be a very tidy plant. Finally, Salvia Summer Jewel White is the new style of Salvia, not the traditional type, that is dwarf size compact and a prolific bloomer. This one is very attractive to hummingbirds. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## All America Selections Part 2

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There were so many all america selection vegetable winners that I'm going to have to give you some now and some later. If you can't wait, type All America Selections in your favorite internet search engine and see what comes up!

Today I'm focusing on peppers. Peppers are becoming more and more popular in home gardens. Some of these are hot peppers, but even the hottest of these are only jalapeno hot. Pepper Sweet Sunset is a compact banana pepper. It sets a lot of fruit and very tasty fruit. The plant is very compact and the peppers are colorful. It has even won some taste test trials! Pepper Flaming Flare is a Fresno style of pepper that is not as finicky as normal Fresno cultivars. Fresno peppers are great for making chili sauces and heat will increase the longer you leave the pepper on the plant. Pepper Emerald Fire is the hottest pepper at 2500 Scoville units (bout average for a jalapeno). The fruits are very large for a jalapeno making them perfect for stuffing, grilling or making salsa. Glossy green peppers with thick walls and very little cracking will make this one popular, once you can find it in the trade! Pepper Pretty N Sweet is an edible ornamental. All ornamentals are safe to eat, its just that many aren't very tasty. This one is and has lots of multicolored peppers on a compact 18 inch plants. And finally Pepper Hot Sunset is a hot banana or wax pepper. It's heat as tolerable at only 650 Scoville Units. This banana is much thicker walled than many making it highly desirable for fresh use, grilled roasted or pickled! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.