

### Bagworms - Control Time About Gone

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If your shrubs have bagworm issues, I hope you are noticing them by now. Maybe I've been in this business way too long, or maybe I just need to pay more attention driving down the road, but I'm seeing a LOT of bagworm damage on junipers and cedars. The good news is that in another few weeks, they will be through feeding for this year. The bad news is that if you don't treat your bagworm infested cedars now, the bagworms may very well kill your junipers by the time they stop feeding. If you have bagworms on your evergreens, AND you want to keep those evergreens, even if they are looking pretty bad right now, then get out there and start spraying. Some people ask if they can just pick the bags off their plants. Yes you can, but you need to seal the little rascals up into a plastic trash bag or they'll all start crawling up out of your garbage can in short order. Even if you do pull a bunch of them off, I would still spray. As I've said in the past, use a hose end sprayer to apply a thorough soaking spray. Several products are available in their own hose end sprayer so you don't even have to mix anything up. But I can't emphasize enough the importance of applying the insecticide with lots of carrier. A through soaking is necessary. A 1 or 2 or 3 gallon pump up sprayer isn't going to cut it unless you have a very small plant. A 15 to 20 gallon sprayer can probably do it but you still need to apply to the point of literally dripping off the plant. One last item, the product spinosad seems to be the most effective on larger bagworms, but use what you've got - just get those plants sprayed! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of

JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Green June Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Green June Beetles have been increasing in recent years. Their presence can be unsettling to many folks. While they often make a loud buzzing noise when they fly, they aren't bumblebees or a giant bee from you know where. They are a green June beetle and yes I know it's July. Their arrival is right on time. They are strong flyers but rather clumsy flyers. They'll fly right into you, or your house or your pets. Like all scarab beetles, yes they are a scarab, the larval form is a grub in the ground, albeit a rather large grub. With most June beetles, or scarabs, the larva or grub does the majority of the damage eating roots off of plants like grass. While the green June beetle will feed on grass they will also feed on decaying tree roots. Unlike other June beetles, the green June beetle grub will sometimes come to the surface and feed on the above ground portions of the turf plant. They can leave mounds of soil 2 to 3 inches across. They may also leave a large thumb sized hole in the ground, especially when the adults emerge in late June and July. Now, unlike other June beetles, the adults of the green June beetle can be quite damaging. They seem to be very fond of feeding on ripening fruit, especially things like peaches. In the south they are often called fig eaters! They seem to be highly attracted to over ripe fruit so be sure to keep windfalls picked up off the ground. If they

are attacking developing fruit you can treat with sevin or just about any of the standard insecticides that are registered for use on fruit, but you need to get the spray directly on them!

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## Plan Now For Fall Lawn Renovation

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 need to do some major work on your lawn, such as reseeding or overseeding, then early September is when you need to do that but NOW is when you start getting ready. Many of our lawns don't do well because of inherent soil problems. While many lawn grasses, especially fescue, are very tolerant of a wide range of soil pH, sometimes we do have to add some lime or sulfur. But the biggest challenge that these new lawns face is extremely low phosphorus levels. This is especially true in the newer housing developments that just a few years ago were still pastures. Low soil phosphorus levels will doom a new stand of grass to start to grow and then just sit there and do nothing. Many times we don't need to kill a lawn down to bare ground, till it up and start over. The power seeders that can be rented from hardware stores are very effective at planting into thin or patchy stands of sod. If you have nothing but weeds and especially if you are trying to get rid of Bermudagrass, you will need to get the Bermudagrass growing well and then treat it with a glyphosate herbicide like Roundup. Wait a couple of weeks, water it good and treat it again. Then mow the dead bermudagrass as low as you can to get as much out of there as possible and consider tilling it up to break up that nasty sod. If you have nothing but weeds and want to get a clean start, then a single treatment of glyphosate two weeks before planting will help. For those wanting to learn more about basic lawn maintenance, I'll be holding a Lawn 101 class the evening of September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Call the office for details. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.