

### Late April Vegetable Gardening

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The calendar is screaming right along and we are quickly coming to the end of April. Late last week the soil temperature was pushing up to 58 but with cooler conditions for a few days now, we are probably still hanging around that upper 50s to around 60 degree range. Which means that it is still a little too cool for those heat loving crops like beans, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, okra and squash. It's also a little bit late for those early spring crops like all the cole crops and potatoes. But, if you look at what you can be planting right now, it's a long list. We are coming up on the end of the planting time for things like collards, chard, carrots, onions, peas, spinach, turnips, and beets. Of course many of those can be planted again in mid to late summer for fall harvest. Which reminds me - if you don't have a copy of K-State Research and Extension's Vegetable Garden Planting Guide, you need to get it. This 4 page free bulletin is packed so full of information, it's amazing! My favorite part is the garden calendar that shows when you should plant your different vegetable crops and when you can expect to harvest them. Okay, we've talked about what is too early to plant, we've talked about what is almost too late to plant, so let's wrap up and talk about those things that we're in the middle of prime planting season. Melons and lettuce top that list. I'm nervously going to say you can start planting sweet corn now and you can also probably get pumpkins in the ground too. The rest of those need to wait about another week to ten days. And remember we may yet have a frost! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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## Ash/Lilac borers

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 heard a lot about the Emerald Ash borer in recent years. This pest has not arrived in our area, yet anyway. But there is a pest that has been here for decades that is a problem for both ash and lilac, and even privet. The ash lilac borer is actually a moth that overwinters in the canes of lilac or just under the bark of ash trees, especially smaller ash trees. Starting about now the adult moth emerges. While there is just one generation per year, the moths will emerge over a couple of months ending around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The moths mate and lay their eggs at the base of lilac stems or low on the trunk of ash trees. The eggs hatch and the young borer crawls up a little ways before burrowing into the stem or trunk to start feeding. They feed just under the bark which severs the water and food transport vessels. If you've ever had lilac stems just wilt and die in the late summer, this is the reason. The standard control procedure is to apply a thorough soaking spray to the base of plants that are subject to infestation. You are essentially vaccinating the base of the plants so when the young larvae burrows into the wood, they contact the insecticide and die. Permethrin is probably the best product to use. Hi-Yield 38 Plus is labeled for borer control. Spray the bottom half of lilac stems or the bottom four feet of ash trees. Apply as a thorough soaking spray just to the point of runoff. Apply the first treatment now and then two more treatments at four week intervals. Ash trees more than about ten inches in diameter probably don't need to be sprayed, but smaller ones do! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Spring weed control in lawns

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. All the weeds that you see blooming in your yard right now, were there last fall. Therefore, late October is the best time to control those early season weeds. Mark it on the calendar for October 2015. But that doesn't do you any good for the weeds blooming right now. Before you initiate any weed control now, though, draw a map of your yard and plot out where you have the heaviest weed infestation. These areas are where you need to work to improve your turf. Ultimately, the best weed prevention is a good thick lawn that you mow tall, which helps to keep the ground shaded. The next thing to be aware of is that once a weed starts to bloom, it will be hard to control, and it will go ahead and produce seed anyway. Which is why we want to treat in late October. ALSO be aware that any of the standard lawn weed herbicides contain products that will vaporize easily and these vapors can curl the leaves of sensitive plants like roses, redbuds, grapes and tomatoes. There aren't very many tomatoes planted yet which means you want to hurry up and spray now before very many are planted. Look for a lawn herbicide that is a combination of several herbicides. Trimec, Weed B Gon, and Weed Out are all examples of these. Spray when the temperature is above 50 but below 70. This helps minimize volatilization of the herbicide. Spray when it is as calm as possible. Again, this keeps the spray where it belongs. Use a coarse spray and if using a pump up sprayers, keep the pressure low. Mix and use according to label directions, and avoid over spray. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.