

Controlling Bindweed in yards and gardens

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. When the Russian settlers came to Kansas in the middle of the 19th century, they brought with them bags of Turkey Red Wheat which revolutionized Kansas agriculture. Tucked into those bags of wheat seed was a tiny little black seed shaped sort of like an orange slice. This little seed ended up being planted as well and is now the scourge that we all know as field bindweed, a deep rooted perennial vine with pretty white flowers. Bindweed can be a real pest in lawns, gardens and landscape beds, especially in newer neighborhoods in town. Bindweed establishes fast, grows rapidly and can be a real problem in lawns and gardens. Being a perennial, it is still growing well and will continue to do so until we have temperatures down into the low 20s. Being a perennial it is also very busy right now moving food reserves into the roots as it gets ready for winter. Therefore, from now until we have a really hard freeze is a great time to be treating bindweed. In yards, just using your regular dandelion type broadleaf weed killers will work great. In gardens, assuming that you've gotten all the garden cleared off, I'd recommend glyphosate, often sold as Roundup or Kleenup, to avoid any risk of soil residual problems next year. If you are going to till your garden this fall and want to deal with the bindweed, spray it first and then wait at least a week before tilling. In lawn areas, crabgrass killers that contain the active ingredient quinclorac also works very well. The active ingredient, quinclorac is very active on bindweed. But again, only in lawn areas, not garden areas. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

Summer Bulbs

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We plant many tender perennial flowers in our gardens. These include things like glads, caladium, dahlia, tuberous begonia, calla lily, and canna lily. All of these have a root portion, commonly but inappropriately called a bulb, that needs to be dug and brought inside to make sure that they survive the winter. Cannas and calla lilies are rhizomes. Caladiums and tuberous begonias have tubers, glads have a corm and dahlia's are a tuberous rooted plant. While I say that if you want to have these plants next year you need to dig them and bring them in, I did have some glads overwinter for a couple of years. But they were mild winters and eventually I did lose them. Anyway, all of these plants should be dug after a frost has browned the foliage. A day or two after the frost occurs, dig up the entire plant and then place it in a shady well ventilated area, like a garage or tool shed, to dry down for a week or two. Spread them out to get good drying - don't just stack them up. Once they are well dried down, cut off the above ground portion of the plant, carefully remove excess dried soil. Once you have them all cleaned up you will want to pack them into something like peat moss, vermiculite or perlite. Don't let the bulbs touch each other. If one starts to decay you don't want it touching others and spreading. You can also dust the bulbs before storing for added protection. Caladiums are tender and should be stored between 50 and 60 degrees. All the other bulbs are best stored around 40 degrees if possible. An unheated garage may work if they are well packed!

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Fall Prep of Gardens

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The inexperienced gardener is easy to spot. They are the one that once their garden is done they walk away and don't do anything with their garden until next spring. The experienced gardener knows that the next few weeks can be crucial to the success of their garden next year. Now is a great time to pull soil samples for analysis so we know if we need to adjust soil pH and add fertilizer. Just bring a pint of soil compiled from several spots in your garden in to the extension office and we'll get it sent over to K-state for analysis. Once the results come back, you can add, lime or sulfur or fertilizer, plus any organic matter that you want to add, and then till the ground. Fall tillage does several good things. It buries any leftover plant residue that you didn't get cleaned off. Burying it allows it to start breaking down and minimizes disease risk. Fall tillage breaks up egg masses of things like squash bugs, grasshoppers and other damaging insects. If you did add lime or sulfur or organic matter it also allows the processes to start of changing soil pH or breaking down the organic matter. Right now the soil is fairly dry, once you get your garden tilled up you may want to water it down good if it doesn't rain. Watering it will help settle the soil. It'll help the lime or sulfur start to work or help the organic matter start breaking down AND possibly germinate any weed seeds that you can kill later with roundup or frost will kill. Fall tillage can also get you ready to roll next spring. While others may be waiting for the garden to dry so they can till it, you'll be planting! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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