

## Winterkill

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Mother Nature may not be predictable, but she seldom lets me down. Back in December, when it got down to 9 below zero, or colder in some locations, I believe my comment to someone was, that's going to leave a mark! Most of the landscape plants that we grow around here are winter hardy for our normal winter weather IF they have been given adequate time to get acclimated to winter weather. Unfortunately last fall saw September, October and November with well above average temperatures. What happened was that it just got too cold too fast. I've seen a lot of plants showing various signs of winterkill this spring. Some, like boxwoods or other evergreens, have areas that are dead - usually the foliage just looks like it was hit with a blow torch. Cut out the dead parts, sprinkle a little fertilizer around and keep the plant watered when it turns dry. Other plants, like roses, showed a lot more freeze damage than normal. I had a knockout rose where half the bush didn't leaf out this spring. I had some hybrid tea roses, un-mulched, that froze way down close to the ground. It was time for a good pruning on both the teas and the knockouts so I just cut out all the dead wood and then did a little more general pruning to clean it up a bit. I even saw some young trees that were planted last fall that only leafed out about 2/3 of the height of the tree. In this case just prune out the dead back to live tissue. And then there were the plants that were planted a little too far north of their adaptation zone that didn't survive at all. But that's a topic for another day!

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## Crabgrass Killers

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 have areas of your lawn that have bare soil or are regularly mowed short, you probably have crabgrass growing. Even if you put down crabgrass preventers, you probably still have crabgrass starting to grow. Crabgrass (and we'll include other summer annual grasses like barnyard grass and foxtail here) is sprouting and growing right now. If you look closely at your soil and you see little single leaves sticking up then these are seedling grasses. They are often a very pale green as well. Seedling broadleaf weeds will always have two leaves opposite each other. It used to be that if the crabgrass got started growing before we got our crabgrass preventers applied we were pretty much out of luck. Post emerge crabgrass killers were few and far between with varying results depending on weather conditions. But then along came products like quinclorac, fenoxaprop-p-ethyl and now mesotrione and suddenly we have options. If you didn't get your crabgrass preventer applied and you can see lots of little crabgrass seedlings coming up, get one of these crabgrass killers and treat them. If you don't want to do any seeding this fall you can also still apply a crabgrass preventer AND treat with a killer so as to kill what's started and then keep others from starting. Word of caution, don't use the fenoxaprop-p-ethyl on a Bermudagrass lawn and if you use a product with quinclorac don't use the grass clippings for mulch in a garden or flower bed. If you want to control growing crabgrass and still plant this fall, consider using a mesotrione product. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Tomato Leaf Woes

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With a wet warm May behind us it should be no surprise that we are already seeing tomato leaf diseases. One of the problems that many homeowners have is that they see "disease resistant" on the tags of most tomato plants and they think that this is resistant to ALL diseases. Unfortunately, the disease resistance being mentioned on those tags is resistance to soil borne diseases, usually verticillium, fusarium and nematodes. It provides no resistance to common foliage diseases like early or late blight or septoria leaf spot. While we could be seeing a little early blight, the weather has been right for it, septoria is going to be coming on strong if it isn't already. These diseases overwinter in left over tomato leaf debris in the soil. Rain splashes the fungal disease spores from the old leaf material up to the lowest leaves on the tomato plant. The leaves get infected, spots develop, leaves die and the next rain storm splashes spores up to the next higher leaf. And so it will continue all summer long! While we can't do anything about rainstorm, we can make sure we don't use sprinkler systems when watering our gardens. Sprinklers are a guarantee of leaf diseases. Next, just as soon as you start to see leaf spots, start treating with a fungicide. Chlorothalonil and mancozeb will both give good results, BUT, you have to be sure to spray the tops and bottoms of all the leaves as the disease can attack the lower side of the leaf surface. It can also help to remove dead and dying leaves and make sure none are on the ground under the plants. But remember, keep the leaves dry! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Euonymous Scale

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 insect pests of plants that don't necessarily look like insects. When we think of insects we often think of grasshoppers or beetles or butterflies and moths and caterpillars. What we don't think of is something small and hard that sits on a leaf and doesn't appear to move. But there are a whole host of insects known as scale insects that pretty much just sit on a leaf and don't move. I see scale insects on quite a few plants and often they are more of a novelty than a problem, but we do have a few plants where they can be quite damaging. One of those is Euonymous Scale on Euonymous. Euonymous Scale is going to look like small white and brown flecks that are stuck to the surface of leaves. You have to scrape them off with your fingernail - they won't just rub off. Scale insects hatch from eggs, crawl a short distance and when they think they've got a good feeding spot then they attach their mouthpart and try to build a hard protective coating over their back. Now is the best time to try to control these as the first generation is hatching and starting to crawl around. If you find you have these on your Euonymous you need to treat about every 7 to 10 days three or four times. Only certain products are going to give you a chance of control. These are Orthene, cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, and lambda-cyhalothrin. Amazingly, these products are in many common yard and garden insecticides. You can also use insecticidal soaps or horticultural oils plus neem. Mix any of these up according to directions and apply thorough soaking sprays every 7 to 10 days. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Time to Start Treating Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Bagworm eggs are starting to hatch. I'll admit that I haven't yet seen any, but then again, I haven't really been looking. But others have reported seeing small crawlers out and about. So, you know what that means? It's bagworm treatment time. There are several tricks of the trade in dealing with bagworms. The first one is to treat them when they are small. When it is early August and they are two inches long and can be seen as you drive down the street at 30 mph, it's too late. If you've had bagworms either of the past two years OR if your neighbor has had bagworms, you just need to treat this year. They hatch late - usually starting in late May. Early on they grow rather slowly so we've got time. I normally recommend treating twice, the first time around June 10<sup>th</sup> and the second time June 25<sup>th</sup>. The second trick of the trade is that they are susceptible to many different common garden insecticides. As long as it's labeled for junipers or ornamental trees and shrubs, what you use doesn't matter nearly as much as how you apply it. The bagworm is in that tiny little bag that is decorated with bits of foliage from the host plant that it is feeding on. The bag provides a certain amount of protection. You need to apply a lot of spray and you can't do that with a pump up canister sprayer. You need a hose end sprayer that allows you to spray to the point of runoff. You basically want to soak that bag down. Fortunately many of the lawn and garden insecticides now come prepackaged in their own applicator. No mixing, hook up to the garden hose and spray. Pretty slick! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.