

## Gardening with Chuck for June 11 - 17, 2018

### Meetings tonight and tomorrow night

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. You have two opportunities for home landscape education tonight and tomorrow night. Bagworms are cranking up right now and they are as bad as I can recall seeing them. Treating now is essential for good control, but if you don't have bagworms, you're better off NOT treating. At 7 p.m. tonight, Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll meet in the parking lot behind Central National Bank, 116 West 8<sup>th</sup> in Junction City. I'll talk about bagworm life cycles, how to identify them early in their life span and how to best control them. There's no registration requirement and no cost of this meeting. The second meeting is tomorrow night, Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> and that one is all about poison ivy. Poison ivy is an extremely common plant that can cause a great deal of discomfort for many people if they are exposed to it. This demonstration will be held in the south end of Homer's Pond, just west of Eisenhower along West Spruce Street. You'll have no problem finding us there. I will discuss identification of poison ivy and some often confused other plants, some of the myths and facts of poison ivy and then, most importantly, how to control it without you requiring a bath in calamine lotion. Again, tonight is bagworms behind Central National Bank, 116 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and tomorrow, Tuesday night, is poison ivy at Homer's Pond along Spruce Street just west of Eisenhower. Both programs start at 7 p.m. There is no pre-registration requirement and no cost for either one just show up and learn! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Poison Ivy

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Poison Ivy is all around us yet so many people totally fail to notice it until the break out in a rash. Poison ivy is everywhere in this area and it is doing extremely well this year. Being a deep rooted perennial it has the ability to take advantage of hot dry weather to out compete other plants. For the record, we have no poison oak or poison sumac around here, we only have poison ivy, but it is extremely variable and can look like a free standing shrub, a vine growing up a tree or a ground cover spreading out over an area no more than 10 inches tall, And it's all poison ivy. Well established plants can only be killed by the use of herbicides, but around yards you have to proceed cautiously as the herbicides that will control it will damage or kill other woody and broadleaf plants. Seedlings can be carefully pulled up by the roots if the ground is wet. Once the plant has started growing the sap has the ability to cause a reaction in sensitive people. Which brings up another misconception, to react you HAVE to get the sap on you. While there aren't fumes that can get you, smoke from a fire can carry tiny particles of the nasty stuff and deposit it on your skin, in your eyes and even in your lungs. A reminder that I am having a hands off educational program tonight on poison ivy. We will meet at the southerly end of Homer's Pond at 7 p.m. Just go west of Eisenhower on Spruce Street for a little ways - you have no problem finding me. The program is free and no need to signup ahead of time! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Trumpet Vine

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There is a woody vine that is often promoted as a nectar source for hummingbirds. It has large orangish red trumpet shaped flowers and goes by the name of trumpet vine or trumpet creeper, or several other names depending on the part of the country you are in. It is a native plant to the eastern/southeastern US but that doesn't stop it from being overly aggressive. Trumpet vine was often planted at old farmsteads and even after everything else is gone, the trumpet vine is still around. It is an attractive plant to not only hummingbirds but also to orioles. It is a survivor and can spread by root sprouts and also seed from the large seed pods. I don't tell people NOT to plant it, but put it in the corner of a very large lot away from everything else because once you get it started, you're liable to spend the rest of your life trying to kill it. So if you are into the phase where you are trying to kill a trumpet vine, here's a thing or two to keep in mind. You have to be aggressive. Start by cutting down and removing all the larger vines you can find. As soon as you cut it off at the ground treat the cut stump with concentrated glyphosate. If new shoots show up in the grass, spray them with a poison ivy killer. If new shoots come up in a flower bed or away from desirable vegetation, treat them with a glyphosate formulation like roundup or kleen up. This stuff is aggressive and ruthless. It is trickier than poison ivy. You have to stay after it for several years and just stay aggressive! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Killing Tree Seedlings

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One of the most frustrating things to deal with in home landscapes, well, other than trumpet vine, is tree seedlings. If you can catch many tree seedling when they are just a few weeks old, and the soil is wet, you can often pull them up fairly easily. But mow them off for a year or two or just keep clipping them off and unless they are a cedar tree seedling, they'll just keep coming back. In a flower bed you may be able to get deep enough under them with a trowel to get them dug out. But if they are bigger trees that keep getting cut off, or they are out in the lawn where you keep mowing them off, you are destined to chemical warfare. In lawn areas, let them get some growth, and then use a lawn weed killer. If you have a few, just spot spray them, but if you have a lot, you'll have to resort to a broadcast treatment, most easily done with a hose end sprayer. If you are tackling the larger ones, that are as big around as your finger, a cut and treat approach is best. You normally will use a concentrated herbicide and apply it just to the cut surface. In your yards do not use Tordon RTU stump killer. Tordon moves easily in water and can get carried into the soil and taken up by the roots of desirable plants where it will damage or kill them. Use triclopyr or glyphosate. You can use a small cup and a brush OR I was recently shown a new product that is essentially a bingo dauber that you fill up with the concentrate of your choice and then you can daub the freshly cut stump! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Deadheading

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the transportation industry, deadheading is a term to indicate a leg of a trip without a fare or a load. The trucker delivered the load but has nothing to haul back to the home destination. It's something to be avoided. In the world of flower gardening, deadheading is something that really needs to be done on many of our flowering plants. Deadheading is simply the process of removing the flowers from plants after they are spent and drying down. In perennials we are doing this so that the plant doesn't waste energy producing seeds when it could be putting that energy into root reserves as in peonies, or in the case of woody perennials, like lilacs, developing new growth and later in the summer flower buds for next years blooms. But we deadhead annuals for a somewhat different reason. An annual plant has one objective during its life - produce seed. All plants want to make sure that their genetics are present in the following growing season, For perennials that means producing seed, OR simply keeping themselves alive. But annuals only have one method - produce seed. If an annual plant blooms and sets seed it's going to focus it's energy on getting those seeds to maturity. It will likely quit blooming. So when the blossoms start to fade, we remove them. Without the hormonal feedback loop, the plant starts making more flowers. And so you keep it up all summer long. Fertilize lightly and keep the plants watered and they should keep blooming. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.