

Gardening with Chuck Programs for December 31, 2018 - January 6, 2019

Recycle the Christmas Tree

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Just in time for the traditional New Year's Day Christmas Tree undecorating we have information on where Geary County Fish and Game is collecting trees for wildlife habitat. This collection is for REAL Christmas trees only. No artificial trees, household trash or yard waste is to be dropped off at the collection point. The trees must have ALL of their decorations removed. This includes ornaments, garland and especially tinsel. All of these items could be hazardous to wildlife. The trees will be tied together in bundles of 6 to 8 trees and then sunk in Milford Lake to provide fish habitat. The collection point is right where it's been in recent years, at the corner of 14th and Jackson. You'll see the sign and pile of trees. The trees must be dropped off no later than January 18th. After that, you're littering! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with

Chuck.

Conservation Tree Order Form

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you live on a sizable lot, meaning an acre or bigger, you may have the desire or the need to plant quite a few trees for wildlife or a windbreak. If you've ever priced trees at a nursery it can leave you in sticker shock. Fortunately there are options. The Kansas Forest Service has conservation trees and shrubs for landowners. These are to be planted for very specific uses, mainly windbreaks, woodlots, riparian plantings and wildlife habitat. They come in bundles of 25 of the same species and these ARE seedlings. They are one or two years old, generally less than 18 inches tall and are bare root plants. They need to be planted soon after receiving. The good news is that they are only \$25 for that bundle of 25. There's a good variety, you can order online or get an order form at the Extension Office. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Bird Seed Preferences

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Backyard bird feeding is a popular activity for many families especially in the winter. But many homeowners become frustrated with the amount of perceived waste of the feed. First and foremost, the birds that come to a hanging feeder want black oil sunflower. Anything else they'll throw on the ground. So only use the sunflower. Mixes with millet, milo, corn, etc should be placed on the ground because the birds that will feed on those grains prefer feeding on the ground. You can also use specialized feeders. Tube feeders with narrow slit openings are designed for thistle or niger seed or sunflower chips. Peanut feeders are popular with jays, nuthatches and woodpeckers. Suet feeders will get heavy use, especially in colder weather, from woodpeckers, nuthatches and Brown Creepers. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Step Away From the Catalog!

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's not even the first full week of January. I've already started getting seed catalogs as I'm sure most gardeners have. My advice is to just put those catalogs in a pile until the end of this month or on into February. It's highly unlikely that any seed source will sell out of seed THAT early. The problem that many gardeners run into with garden catalogs is that they are so ready for spring and the gardening season that their eyes get bigger than their garden or yard. We just got through with the holidays and many of us are still putting holiday stuff away. You haven't had time to even sit down and figure out a plan to know how much space you have or more often, don't have! Take time to unwind from the holidays. Then sit down with some paper and start to develop a plan, THEN open the catalog! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with

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ONLY FOUR PROGRAMS THIS WEEK DUE TO NEW YEAR'S DAY

I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.